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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you encountered any problems entering or exiting the CNMI since federal authorities took over immigration functions at the airport?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

New Radios
The CNMI Office of Homeland Security has received 198 new handheld radio devices.

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Haiti Update
One restored a Haitian president to power; the other flew him back out again.

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Best Actress
Rachel Weisz wins the best-actress prize at London's Laurence Olivier theater awards.

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WESPAC takes up fishing rules for marine monuments. PAGE 3
'Salary adjustment for interim prexy violates policy' **PAGE 6**

Historic US health care reform bill will impact NMI, territories

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For residents of the CNMI, the U.S. House of Representatives' passage on Sunday of a historic Senate health care reform bill and a reconciliation measure would mean a triple increase in Medicaid funding over the next 10 years and a chance to have increased access to affordable health insurance, among other things.

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What's in it for the CNMI?

What the CNMI stands to get from H.R. 4872 or the "Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act"

- **Triple increase in Medicaid funding—about $158 million over 10 years**
- **Gives CNMI governor the option to set up an insurance exchange—with subsidies for those people who are too well off to be covered by Medicaid, but not well off enough to cover the full cost of insurance premiums.**

See WHAT'S on Page 4

COVENANT DAY DEBATE
NMI Council for the Humanities members led by chairman Charles P. Reyes Jr., left, pose with participants in the 8th Annual Covenant Day Debate at the CNMI Supreme Court Chamber in Susupe last night. From left, Reyes; Marianas Baptist Academy's Kanata Omori, Hye Young Oh, and Jessica Lee; Saipan International School's Amber Roberts; and Council members Tracy Guerrero and Joann T. Aquino. Roberts won in the senior division, while Hye Young Oh won in the junior division. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI omnibus immigration bill now law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Fitial asks Labor to reorganize, urges alien workers to abide by umbrella permit terms

As expected, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial immediately signed into law yesterday afternoon the omnibus immigration bill that asserts CNMI control over nonresident workers and removing all references to immigration and deportation from the Commonwealth Code to conform to the federalization law that came into effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

The Fitial administration-proposed measure passed the

See BILL on Page 4

House sends health care overhaul bill to Obama

RELATED NEWS
- Obama achieves health law success that eluded past. **PAGE 15**

By ERICA WERNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—A transformative health care bill is headed to President Barack Obama for his signature as Congress takes the final

See HOUSE on Page 4

How they voted

How the House voted on three health care overhaul measures:

Democrat Republican

Needed to pass: 216 votes

Procedural vote
Rules of the debate — Not voting: 1

YES		NO
224		28
0		178
224		206

Senate health care bill
Passed by the Senate Dec. 24

YES		NO
219		34
0		178
219		212

Reconciliation bill
House fixes to Senate bill

YES		NO
220		33
0		178
220		211

Source: U.S. Congress
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Local

Trial of firefighter accused of stealing boat engine begins

The jury trial of a firefighter accused of stealing a boat engine belonging to the Northern Islands Mayor's Office began yesterday at the CNMI Superior Court.

Associate Judge David Wiseman began the jury selection in the morning and was able to select before noon seven jurors who will decide the fate of Fire Fighter I Combiniano Taisakan.

Wiseman will continue the trial today, Tuesday, at 9am. Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher is prosecuting the case. Assistant public defender Matthew Holley is counsel for Taisakan.

Gallagher and Holley are expected to make their opening statements today.

Police arrested the 42-year-old Taisakan in August 2009 for theft and possession or removal of government property.

The Office of the Attorney General's White Collar Crimes/Public Corruption Task Force served the arrest warrant on Taisakan at the Department of Public Safety's Fire Station on Capital Hill where he was assigned.

Task Force investigator Juan Santos said it was a police sergeant at the DPS Professional Standard Unit who referred a theft complaint involving Taisakan on April 28, 2009.

Santos said investigation showed that Taisakan sold the boat engine to Fire Fighter George Rios and his wife Sayuri Rios for $300 between June 6 and August 2007.

The Rios couple allegedly made two payments to the defendant totaling $140.

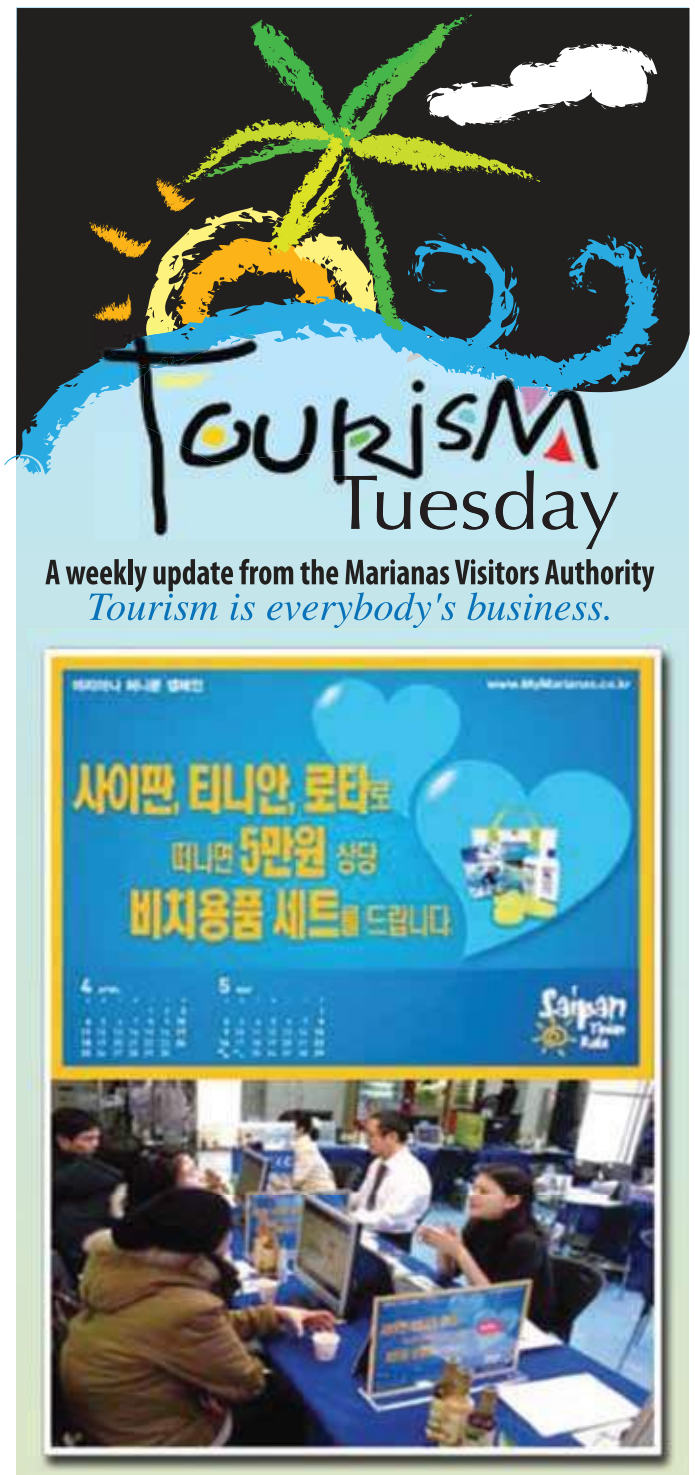
Sayuri Rios told investigators that while she was cleaning the boat engine, she uncovered a CNMI tag number imprinted on it, prompting her to call her husband.

Sayuri Rios told her husband to return the engine and get back the money because she believes the engine is government property.

Santos said further investigation showed that the engine is in fact still the property of the Northern Islands Mayor's Office and is still under the active property inventory listing obtained from Procurement and Supply.

Taisakan allegedly stated that his brother, then Northern Islands Mayor Valentine Taisakan, has the $140 because it was the mayor who asked him to sell the engine.

The former mayor denied it and stated he was also looking for the engine. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



My Marianas Early Bird Honeymoon Promotion

Nearly **700 Korean newlywed couples** have already booked their honeymoons to the Northern Mariana Islands this year through the **Marianas Visitors Authority's My Marianas Early Bird Honeymoon Promotion** for the spring season.

By partnering with travel agents to increase awareness of honeymoon options in the islands, the MVA has attracted 129 couples from the Gwangju region, 214 couples from Seoul, and 334 couples from Busan and Daegu.

Travel agents promoted the Northern Marianas at wedding fairs, on-line, and at other venues. Promotion incentives included in-flight duty free coupons and luxury gift sets.

The MVA faced tough competition in Seoul due to increased airfare in April and May and in Busan and Daegu from other resort destinations offering similar products. However, the promotion received encouraging results in Gwangju, where it was offered for the first time and travel agents expressed the hope that the MVA would continue to work with them on additional promotions for the Northern Marianas.

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

WESPAC takes up fishing rules for marine monuments

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Council met last night at the Fiesta Resort and Spa in Garapan to kick off a two-day meeting that will take up management measures for non-commercial fishing in the CNMI Marine Monument and to address other issues for federally managed fisheries in the U.S. Pacific islands.

In January 2009, President George W. Bush created three large Marine National Monuments and ended commercial fishing operations in these areas. However, he made allowances for non-commercial fishing to still take place.

Decisions by the council will be transmitted to the U.S. commerce secretary for final approval. The council will consider public testimony as well as the recommendations of its advisory bodies, including its Scientific and Statistical Committee.

The committee just finished a three-day meeting in Guam on March 21, 2010, with the recommendation that permitted fishing activity in the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument and island units of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument should be based on "customary exchange."

According to the committee, customary exchange is the non-market exchange of goods, services, and social support. This differs from monetary exchange and even trade and barter in that there is not a calculated equivalency or an expectation of immediate return.

Among the indigenous communities in the Western Pacific, this giving and sharing of fish on ceremonial occasions is critically important to maintaining the social fabric and cultural continuity of such communities.

Given the distances to the marine monuments, the committee also recommended that fishermen who want to gain fishing access for non-commercial, sustenance, traditional indigenous and recreational purposes in the Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench, and Pacific Remote Islands Area Marine National Monument be allowed to recover the costs of expenditures to fish.

The committee noted that unless they are allowed some reimbursement for fuel, bait, ice, and provisions, it is likely they would not fish in the marine monuments.

Rose Atoll is located 65 miles east of Ta'u in the Manua Islands and approximately 130 nautical miles east-southeast of Pago Pago Harbor on the island of Tutuila in American Samoa. The three islands of the Marianas Trench Marine Monument are located approximately 260 to 315 miles north of Saipan. The PRIA - MNM includes Baker, Howland, Jarvis, and Wake Islands; Palmyra and Johnston Atolls; and Kingman Reef.

Suspect in fatal assault pleads not guilty

Shane Jonathan Hocog entered yesterday a not-guilty plea in the fatal assault on a jobless man near Kagman High School.

The 22-year-old Hocog pleaded not guilty to the information charging him with voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery.

Chief Prosecutor Rosemond Santos appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Richard Miller represented Hocog. Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo presided over the hearing.

On Friday, associate judge David Wiseman dismissed the second-degree murder charge filed against Hocog, saying he did not find probable cause to warrant the charge.

"Although the court found probable cause that there was an unlawful killing of a human being, it must be with malice aforethought to constitute murder in the second degree," he said.

Malice aforethought, the judge said, usually includes a deliberate design to take the life of a deceased. In this case, Wiseman said, there appears to be no intent to take a life.

"The only evidence presented at the hearing revealed an altercation, apparently in the heat of passion, which consisted of one punch by defendant to the facial area of the alleged victim," he said.

Police arrested Hocog on March 4.

The victim, Gonzales, a 37-year-old Filipino, was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center on March 4 at 4:45pm due to severe head injury.

The autopsy conducted by Guam chief medical examiner Aurelio Espinola indicated that Gonzales died due to brain contusion and laceration.

Police said Hocog punched Gonzales in the face near Kagman High School last March 1. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MOBIL DONATION NMC

Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine Cabrera, second from left, accepts a $2,500 check from Mobil Oil Guam Inc.'s president and country manager, Gennaro Cioffi, third from left, as NMC Foundation president and Businessman of the Year Vicente "Ben" Babauta, third from left, looks on. Also representing Mobil are Anthony Wenceslao, CNMI field operations manager, left, and Patrick Bulaon, retail and commercial manager. The donation from Mobil was made in support of the NMC Foundation and the upcoming 8th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open to be held on April 24, 2010, at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort.

US Senate committee to mark up NMI submerged lands bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will mark up on Tuesday, Mach 23, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's submerged lands bill, which conveys to the CNMI people submerged lands out to three miles from the shoreline around the islands.

The Committee will mark up Sablan's H.R. 934, making any changes the senators think are required based on testimony taken at a hearing on Dec. 17, 2009, by the Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests.

H.R. 934 was the first bill Sablan (D-MP) introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in February 2009, and the measure has moved steadily through the legislative process.

The U.S. House passed the bill with a unanimous vote of 416-0 on July 15, 2009.

The bill must still pass the U.S. Senate and be signed by the president before it becomes law.

If signed into law, Sablan's H.R. 934 will give the CNMI ownership of up to three miles of its submerged lands.

During debate on the bill in July, Sablan said "for at least 3,500 years, the Chamorro and Refaluwasch people have lived on these islands and fished and sailed in the waters around them. Never did we think them not our own, nor did the people of the Northern Mariana Islands ever believe, in entering the Covenant of Political Union with the United States of America, that we were relinquishing our rights and title to the submerged lands and waters surrounding us."

The U.S. Department of the Interior, during the hearing in December, recommended language clarifying how the transfer would interact with management of the presidential proclamation creating the Marianas Trench National Monument, which the Subcommittee will take under consideration.

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HOUSE

From Page 1

steps in Democrats' improbable and history-making push for near-universal medical coverage.

On the cusp of succeeding where numerous past congresses and administrations have failed, jubilant House Democrats voted 219-212 late Sunday to send legislation to Obama that would extend coverage to 32 million uninsured Americans, reduce deficits and ban insurance company practices such as denying coverage to people with pre-existing medical conditions.

"This is what change looks like," Obama said later in televised remarks that stirred memories of his 2008 campaign promise of "change we can believe in."

"We proved that this government—a government of the people and by the people—still works for the people."

Obama's young presidency received a much needed boost from passage of the legislation, which would touch the lives of nearly every American. The battle for the future of the health insurance system—affecting one-sixth of the economy—galvanized Republicans and conservative activists looking ahead to November's midterm elections.

A companion package making a series of changes sought by House Democrats to the larger bill, which already passed the Senate, was approved 220-211. The fix-it bill will now go to the Senate, where debate is expected to begin as early as Tuesday. Senate Democrats hope to approve it unchanged and send it directly to Obama, though Republicans intend to attempt parliamentary objections that could change the bill and require it to go back to the House.

Obama is expected to sign the larger bill early this week.

BILL

From Page 1

House and Senate during back-to-back sessions on Friday afternoon, despite the resistance of Republican House members.

House Bill 17-25, HS1 is the first bill in the 17th Legislature to be signed into CNMI law.

The over 70-page bill is now Public Law 17-1.

"We have always been concerned that the federalization law would be interpreted as affecting many of our internal labor controls, which some interpreted as such recently. However, that opinion is incorrect," Fitial said in his three-page letter to legislative leaders.

The new law will make the Commonwealth Code conform with the requirements of the federalization law, Title VII of U.S. Public Law 110-229, with respect to federal control of immigration and deportation.

It also converts the mandatory 20- to 30-percent local hiring preference into a floating benchmark.

Fitial also asked the CNMI Department of Labor to reorganize itself to focus on local employment, and called on nonresidents to abide by the terms of their umbrella permit and all other provisions of the Commonwealth law.

"For example, the renewal of any foreign worker contract can be done only with the approval of the Labor Department," he said.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan), who chairs the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which recommended passage of the bill.

Besides Republican lawmakers, Federal Labor Ombudsman Pam Brown, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and others had raised concerns and opposition to the bill's provisions. Brown had suggested that the measure's enactment will violate federal laws other than the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

'Not about local laws'

Fitial said U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Paul L. Friedman, who handled the CNMI government's lawsuit against federalization, stated in his opinion that "the CNRA asserts federal authority over 'few' if any, matters which can be considered as purely 'local'; rather, it 'incidentally' affects some local labor matters to the extent that they are inseparable from immigration matters."

"Remember, the federal case was not about our local labor laws. It was about the provisions of the federal law that mandate the complete removal of all aliens from the Commonwealth within five years. Judge Friedman recognized, as other federal courts have done, that labor is a subject where states have an important role in legislating the terms and conditions under which people work," Fitial told House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota).

In the CNMI's case, the federal role is limited to existing federal labor laws, which have always applied here, and other labor matters that are "inseparable from immigration matters," the governor said.

"What our Legislature has done is to take out from our Code the few local labor matters that are inseparable from immigration matters," he added.

Labor reorganization

The governor asked the Department of Labor to reorganize itself to focus on citizen employment. He said the omnibus bill includes the authority to do this.

"Our economy provides enough jobs to employ all our people, and we are going to take tough new measures to move them into those jobs," he told lawmakers.

He has asked Labor to create a focal point in the department for dealing with employers on both citizen employment and guest worker issues.

"We will insist that employers obey Commonwealth law, and we need to make it as efficient as possible for them to do so. For example, I want employers to be able to deal with the department online to the maximum extent possible," he said.

Fitial said most foreign workers are law-abiding people who just want an opportunity to live comfortably in the CNMI with their families and work at their jobs, which are important to the local economy.

"I urge every foreign worker to abide by the terms of the umbrella permit that you have been granted and all other provisions of Commonwealth law, now that it has been clarified by the bill that the Legislature has just passed," he said.

The governor also asked Labor to create a focal point in the department for dealing with federal government agencies.

"We want to be responsive to their needs, and we want to be transparent in what we do so that they and we can work together on a good basis. I want to emphasize that there are as yet no federal regulations under the federalization law that are applicable to workers or investors in the Commonwealth," he said.

Fitial said Judge Friedman struck down the worker regulations that were issued last year, and no final investor regulations have been issued after the comment period closed last October.

"So we need to proceed cooperatively in the interim so that there is as little instability and uncertainty as possible…. I believe this bill creates a stable employment platform for the Commonwealth and will help in the Commonwealth's economic recovery," he added.

Working with DHS

Fitial said he believes his administration can work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to overcome any operational problems.

"We can make valuable contributions in the process," he said.

He cited as an example Customs and Border Protection, which does not have the capability to record exits from the Commonwealth in digital format on a real-time basis.

"They are working on this, but they don't have a system yet. We have had a very effective digital exit control system for years. So we are keeping our exit control system operational until CBP has their system up and running, hopefully within a year or so," Fitial said.

The Department of Labor had the draft bill ready to go in December and consulted widely in the community about it, he said.

The Office of the Attorney General also gave careful attention to the legal issues from the very beginning of the umbrella permit process through the drafting of the bill and its presentation to the Legislature, he added.

Regulations now being worked on

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas and Deputy Labor Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat, who were present at the bill signing ceremony at 3pm yesterday, said the department is now working on regulations that will be promulgated in accordance with the new law.

The entire labor law, as amended by the omnibus bill, will shortly be on the Labor Department's Web site at www.marianaslabor.net.

Also witnessing the governor's signing of the bill were Demapan, Labor's Jeffrey Camacho and Tom Torres, Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, acting Resident Executive for Indigenous Affairs Ike Demapan, and press secretary Angel Demapan.

Earlier, Fitial's special legal counsel, Howard P. Willens, said that no federal law affects the CNMI Legislature's ability to enact the omnibus immigration bill.

He said the CNRA does not preempt the CNMI from administering and revoking the CNMI immigration status of aliens lawfully present on the islands on Nov. 28, 2009, during the CNRA's two-year transition period.

He agreed with Buckingham's legal opinion, basically reaching this conclusion.

WHAT'S

From Page 1

■ If the CNMI governor decides the insurance exchange is not the best option, he can put the money into Medicaid instead.

■ Raises the caps on federal Medicaid funding.

■ Flexibility in implementing Medicaid to meet local needs and the new funding puts the CNMI on a path to full parity.

■ Insurance companies will be prohibited from dropping coverage for pre-existing conditions, gender rating will be banned, and insurance companies will be prohibited from dropping coverage after an individual becomes sick.

■ The Military Health Care System and the Veterans Health Care System will not be affected by the new health care reforms, because these programs and TRICARE already meet the minimum standards for health insurance plans for military personnel and veterans.

HISTORIC

From Page 1

The Senate's health care reform bill, H.R. 3590 or the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act," passed the House on a 219-212 vote. This bill contains virtually nothing for the CNMI and other U.S. territories.

The second bill that the House passed on Sunday night, H.R. 4872 or the "Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act," contains a number of modifications and amendments to H.R. 3590, including language that ensures the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are covered by the new protections and reforms.

The reconciliation bill triples Medicaid funding for the CNMI—about $158 million over 10 years—and provides access to an insurance exchange for CNMI residents.

The Senate now must pass H.R. 4872, and is expected to begin debate this week.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said the reconciliation measure gives the CNMI governor the authority to create a local health insurance exchange where those who are eligible and uninsured can purchase affordable health insurance, with some federal government subsidies to help pay the premiums.

Sablan said he watched the voting in the House chamber. Sablan is a nonvoting delegate of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I encourage the governor to start working on this, so our people who are eligible for Medicaid but who can't afford comprehensive health insurance will have access to health insurance that will restrict pre-existing conditions prohibitions. There will be no cap in the cost of coverage, and the premiums will be subsidized by the federal government, or in the form of tax credits," Sablan said in a phone interview with *Saipan Tribune* right after the House voting.

If the CNMI governor decides the insurance exchange is not the best option, he can put the money into Medicaid instead.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial welcomed the news that the U.S. Congress passed the president's health care reform bill and was further elated to learn that the reconciliation bill also passed the House.

"I am very pleased to know that our concerns and those of the other territories were included and considered," Fitial said, referring to a letter he and other leaders of U.S. territories earlier sent to Congress.

Fitial joined Guam Gov. Felix Camacho, Puerto Rico Gov. Luis Fortuño and U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. John de-Jongh Jr. in a unified stance seeking the assistance of Congress to ensure that U.S. territories are afforded equal treatment in President Barack Obama's health care proposal.

Originally, the U.S. Senate's approach limited Medicaid funding and excluded U.S. citizens residing in the U.S. territories from even participating in the exchanges.

Obama, who made health care reform a priority for his administration, postponed his March 22 and 23 Guam trip en route to Indonesia and Australia to ensure passage of the health care reforms.

'Monumental, historic'

Sablan said the passage of the health care reform bill and the reconciliation measure is "a monumental, historic day for America."

"The health care reform is an effort that took over a hundred years and so many presidents to make but did not succeed. But President Obama, working with both the House and the Senate, succeeded. It's incredible… It's good for the CNMI, it's good for America, it's good for Americans," Sablan said in a phone interview.

He said he's pleased to witness the U.S. House's action on the measures.

"The feeling here is truly electric," added Sablan, who came to the House chamber at 11am, waited for the 1pm session start, up to the passage of the measures close to midnight.

Sablan's office later issued a press release on the health care reforms.

"I have worked for over a year to ensure that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands benefit from health care reform legislation. The battle is not over. Republicans tried over and over to block the bill in the House. And Republican will make every effort to kill the bill in the Senate. But tonight we succeeded in sending a bill to the Senate that triples the amount of Medicaid funding going to the Northern Marianas over the next 10 years," he said.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Gu), in a statement, also described the passage of health care reforms "historic."

"This is an important bill for Guam and the U.S. territories because the health care reform package will have real, immediate, and lasting improvements on healthcare for all Americans including residents of the territories," she said.

Among the key features of the health care reforms include reducing the federal deficit, providing greater support to Guam, the CNMI and other U.S. territories through the Medicaid program, control medical costs, extend coverage to over 95 percent of Americans, and improve the quality of care received by citizens, said Bordallo.

She said a total of $1 billion is specifically appropriated for the U.S. territories between 2014 and 2019 for the purpose of the health insurance exchange.

Section 1204 of the bill, "Funding for the territories," increases federal funding in the Senate bill for Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI by $2 billion.

It also raises the caps on federal Medicaid funding for each of the territories.

The health care reform package does not provide any federal funding for abortions and preserves the Hyde Amendment, which bans any federal funding of abortions.

Under the bill, insurance companies will be prohibited from dropping coverage for pre-existing conditions, gender rating will be banned, and insurance companies will be prohibited from dropping coverage after an individual becomes sick.

"Each territory will have a one-time option to 'opt-in' to state (or territory)-based insurance exchanges in 2014," she said.

PSS freezes hiring of non-certified personnel

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Due to a projected shortfall in its personnel budget this fiscal year, the Public School System has ordered a hiring freeze on all non-certified positions in all public schools on three islands.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, in memorandum to all principals and program managers on Feb. 16, cited funding shortage as the main reason for the move.

PSS has two types of personnel: certified and non-certified employees.

At present, it has an estimated 900 locally funded personnel, of which over 500 are classroom teachers and teacher aides comprising the certified positions. The rest are support staff and employees who are classified non-certified personnel.

Sablan

Sablan's memorandum states that the outlook for adequate FY 2010 CNMI government funding remains bleak.

"Revenues are projected to continually be on the decline with little or no relief in sight. We are only two quarters into the new fiscal year and PSS is already experiencing shortfalls, most specifically in personnel costs," she said.

It was earlier disclosed that government revenue is estimated to reach just $137 million this fiscal year, a sharp drop from the initial $148 million projection. The decline has prompted the central government to implement an across-the-board 7.25 percent cut in the budget of government agencies for the rest of the fiscal year.

With the cut, PSS projects to lose $5.9 million for personnel costs.

"Mindful of the overall situation, I am instituting a hiring freeze of all locally funded non-certified positions. Certified positions such as classroom teachers, teacher aides, instructors, counselors, vice principals and principals are exempted," the Sablan's memorandum added.

This means support staffs such as bus drivers, maintenance and utility personnel, as well as administrative people are the only ones affected by the hiring freeze.

The Board of Education, in its recent communication with the Legislature, disclosed that any form of austerity measure that would not exempt PSS personnel would have detrimental effects on the system.

Besides the adverse impact on the overall operation of schools, the board also fears the potential loss of federal dollars.

The board estimates that $47 million in total federal monies may be taken away from PSS as a result of austerity measures that would affect personnel and operation.

Because of the system's contract obligation to its 552 classroom teachers and 239 teacher aides, who have to fulfill 190-day contracts, a significant amount may also be lost to PSS.

NMC eyes 141 graduates in Spring semester

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has a total of 141 potential graduates this semester, based on the graduation applications it has received to date.

The potential graduates this year reflect a slight increase from the Spring 2009 figure of 125 graduates.

Data obtained from the college indicates that a large bulk of the current crop of graduates is expected from the Adult Basic Education program, which has 54 students applying for graduation.

ABE is a federally funded program for adult learners. It offers five components including general educational development, adult school, English as a second language, family literacy, and mentor-mentee program.

The associate degree in liberal arts program has the second highest number of potential graduates at 37 registrants, while the business administration has 19 applications.

NMC's bachelor of science in elementary education program projects that all 18 senior students will complete the graduation requirements this Spring semester.

For the associate in nursing program, NMC has received graduation applications from five students; associate degree in criminal justice, three; business, two; and one applicant each under the certificate programs for nursing assistant, audio/video production, and computer application.

NMC's graduation commencement ceremony is scheduled on May 22 at the Marianas High School gymnasium.

Two awards will be given out during the ceremony: the Student Leadership Award and the Academic Achievement Awards.

NMC said the graduating class will be meeting over the next several weeks to select a theme for the graduation and the event's keynote speaker.

It was learned that this year's graduation is a special celebration because the college is celebrating its 30th commencement exercises.

In a statement from the college, it said that interim president Lorraine Cabrera has already assembled a graduation planning committee to plan all activities associated with the graduation, including logistics, program, site preparation and others.

The committee is led by Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan and acting director of the Office Of Admissions and Records Elena Hofschneider.

"We are looking forward to the momentous occasion where graduates and their families will be celebrating great achievements," Cabrera said, adding that the NMC family is extremely proud and excited for their future graduates.

"They have made numerous sacrifices during their educational endeavors and we are honored to be there as witnesses to their accomplishments," she added.

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IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on March 25, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before March 25.

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* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than March 25. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

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'Salary adjustment for interim prexy violates policy'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College regent Elaine Orilla expressed surprise upon learning that interim president Lorraine Cabrera had already been provided a salary adjustment without full Board of Regents action, saying the decision is a violation of board policy.

During yesterday's personnel committee meeting at the campus, Orilla disagreed with the decision and specifically asked for details on how the decision was reached.

"Are you aware Mr. Chairman [Andrew Orsini] that we have a policy on this?...As far as I know, NMC cannot pay for two presidents at the same time because that's against our policy," she said.

Orillo also said she could not recall the specific time when the proposal was brought to the board's attention, contrary to Orsini's earlier claim that the idea was "informally" brought up before the board.

Orsini, as the board's personnel affairs committee chairman, proposed the salary increase for Cabrera due to the additional tasks and responsibilities she assumed after taking over the post from suspended president Dr. Carmen Fernandez on Jan. 12.

"Never in my recollection that this has been brought to our table or addressed in special board meetings or committee meetings. In this issue, we're not in compliance with our policy," she said.

Saipan Tribune earlier learned that Cabrera was provided a salary increase—from $47,000 to $80,000—and that $3,677 in total retroactive payment was released to Cabrera during the payroll period from Jan. 29 through Feb. 26.

Cabrera

Yesterday, Orilla asked who made the decision and who signed the personnel action for Cabrera. "Does Lorraine have personnel action on this? Who signed the contract? This is a board matter," Orilla said.

Saipan Tribune earlier learned that the personnel action for Cabrera was requested on Feb. 25, signed by the Human Resource manager, chief financial and administrative officer, and board chair Janet Han King.

Orsini said that since the interim president issue is "new and unique" to NMC, he was not fully aware of the entire process. He admitted that he made a written proposal to the board chair but he was not aware that it had been approved and released until it was disclosed in the media.

Orsini said that he was just made aware that the issue of salary adjustment depends on the availability of funds.

Orilla, however, countered that the issue of interim or acting president is not new to NMC.

Danny Wyatt, she claimed, served in an acting capacity for many years but was never provided the same salary as a sitting president.

Besides the salary issue, Orilla also questioned Cabrera's selection as interim president.

"Even in the selection of interim president, I have concerns because I only missed one board meeting and this all happened," she said, adding that a list of possible appointees was never reached by the board.

As soon as the board voted to suspend Fernandez on Jan. 12, Cabrera was immediately named to the position.

After a short executive session, the committee decided to defer the matter until members could get more information.

To date, the board has yet to make a decision whether it will reinstate Fernandez to the post or take any other action pending the result of its own fact-finding investigation.

The suspended president is being probed for alleged changing of students' grades and other personnel issues at the college.

Man charged with sending forged $200M T-bonds to insurance firm

US govt brings defendant from DC to Saipan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has brought to Saipan a District of Columbia-based man who allegedly forged a $200 million treasury bond that was used by an insurance company to show to the CNMI Department of Commerce that it has sufficient capital.

Kent Sebastian Robinson, 43, was brought to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday at 4pm for his initial court appearance.

The indictment charged Robinson with fraudulent uttering of a private security, making and uttering of a fictitious obligation, and mail fraud.

The indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Dec. 10, 2009.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman found Robinson a flight risk and imposed no bail for his temporary liberty.

Wiseman appointed a counsel for the defendant and set the arraignment for March 29.

According to the indictment, on Dec. 19, 2008, Robinson made a counterfeited and forged document—a Secured Funding and Offset Bond—purportedly registered with the U.S. Department of Treasury.

The "Offset Bond," which declared a value of $200 million, was paid to the order of Oceania Insurance Corp., a company registered in the CNMI.

The "Offset Bond" falsely purported to be offset by a "deposit private offset with the U.S. Department of Treasury."

On Dec. 19, 2008, Robinson sent via interstate commercial carrier, the "Offset Bond" to Oceania in the CNMI.

Oceania then submitted the "Offset Bond" to the CNMI Insurance Commissioner in furtherance of the fraud.

Robinson's intent, the indictment said, was to deceive Oceania and the CNMI government.

Robinson allegedly devised the scheme to obtain money or property by sending the Offset Bond to the CNMI via interstate commercial carrier.

At the start of the proceedings, when asked if he was Kent Sebastian Robinson, the suspect gave a long answer that essentially meant he did not want to introduce himself and that he is not a corporation, among other things.

A visibly upset Wiseman explained to Robinson that he was in court for an initial appearance.

The defendant gave another long reply that he is a real man and not a corporation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley told the court that an identification hearing was held in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, during which the court made a determination that the defendant is indeed Robinson.

Robinson said he cannot afford a lawyer because he is broke, but that he wants to represent himself in the case.

The defendant stated he has read and understands federal criminal procedures, but he does not recognize them.

Wiseman interrupted Robinson's long arguments several times.

The judge also noted that Robinson refused to respond to the U.S. Probation Office's questions to in determining whether he is eligible for court-appointed counsel.

Robinson also filed a handwritten motion that questioned the venue of the hearing and the jurisdiction of the federal court.

In the motion, the defendant identified himself as Robinson "Third party intervener and real man, flesh and blood living man with a soul, sentient being on sovereign."

O'Malley refused to comment when asked after the hearing if the U.S. government is also investigating Oceania.

DCCA seeks additional $2.1M federal funding

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is seeking an additional $2.1 million that it wants to use to improve critical programs and services and to better meet the needs of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities in the CNMI.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao outlined his department's needs in a March 18, 2010, letter to the Administration on Aging, as part of comments supporting the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

Faisao also asked that "Native American Pacific Islanders" be added to the definitions list of the Native American Programs Act of 1974. Including Native American Pacific Islanders on the list would allow Commonwealth indigenous senior citizens to receive competitive funding opportunities under the Native American Program Act, he said.

"If provided with such an opportunity, it will be a mechanism to solicit public input from indigenous senior citizens who are members of the communities on ways to increase and improve opportunities for public participation in federal programs considering a number of factors, including language barriers," he added.

The DCCA hopes for $200,000 to start an Aging and Disabilities Research Center where older people and people with disabilities can have access to clear and uniform information and counseling for all available long-term care services. The ADRC will reach out to underserved older people as well as those with disabilities in villages where people have limited access to information.

In addition, the DCCA asked for $200,000 to establish a caregivers program in the CNMI. Faisao said this program will prevent premature institutionalization and promote the independence of disabled or senior citizens in the community.

DCCA's other requests include:

■ $200,000, to implement a "wrap around case management system." Case management is the facilitation and coordination of services at the community level and is designed to provide senior citizens with the specific resources necessary to take control of his/her own life.

■ $300,000, for the CNMI Senior Food Market Nutrition Program. This money is to be used to help low-income seniors get various foods from local farmer's markets, vendors, and community supported agricultural programs. Such funding would also be used for the expansion of domestic farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community-supported agricultural programs.

■ $200,000, for existing funding opportunities that will go to employment, including the Senior Community Service Employment Program. Most of the senior citizens on island belong to the baby boomer generation, according to Faisao, and these individuals should not be subjected to isolation, but instead be given the opportunity to be a contributing member of the Commonwealth workforce.

■ $600,000, to provide nutrition to low-income homes of senior citizens including, but not limited to congregate and home-delivered meals. Faisao said the additional funding will be used to offset the sharp rise of commodity prices.

■ $400,000, to pay for various forms of transportation. The DCCA wants to organize several programs to provide seniors with transportation to and from markets, senior centers, and other agencies as part of a referral process and through partnerships with private and other stakeholders.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS, YOUNG AND OLD

Bridge Capital launches art contest

Bridge Capital, LLC is sponsoring an art competition for the purpose of promoting and supporting CNMI artists, young and old.

The open competition is for those ages 18 and older; while the K-12 competition will be for those from Kindergarten through 12th grade.

The contest will feature two categories: two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art (i.e. visual works of art, sculptures, ceramics, traditional crafts, etc.).

All submissions must be original works. No computer or digital submissions accepted.

Prizes to be awarded are $2,500 for first place, $1,500 for second place, $1,000 for third place, and $500, along with 12 awards of $25 for K-12 competition and $100 school supply gift certificates for each winning student's classroom.

A panel of judges—CNMI business and government leaders—will select the winning works of art (both the Open and K-12 Competitions are eligible for these awards).

Competition Requirements:

■ All artists entering the competition must have continually resided in the CNMI for not less than one (1) year

■ Maximum 2 entries per person (other than K-12)

■ Each entry must be accompanied by the Bridge Capital Art Competition entry form and state the artist's name, age, address and phone number (for K-12 submissions, also include school name/teacher's name/ grade level)

■ Bridge Capital reserves the right to purchase a select number of non-winning art pieces and their rights at prices to be negotiated with the artists

All entries (other than K-12) should be submitted directly to: Bridge Capital, LLC Bridge Capital Building, Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 K-12

For the K-12 competition, entries must be submitted through student's teacher. One winning entry from each grade level (K-12) will receive $25. Each teacher will select the best three from their classroom to be submitted for judging. The classroom of each winning student will receive $100 store credit for school supplies at a local office supply.

Submission deadline is April 19, 2010 at noon. Competition results will be announced on April 23, 2010, Winners will be notified by April 23 and will be invited to Bridge Capital's new office building grand opening on April 24, 2010 where the winning entries will be on display

Official rules and entry forms can be found at Bridge Capital, LLC's Web site www.bccnmi.com/artcontest.

Bridge Capital, LLC is an international investment banking and asset management company located in the CNMI. The company is involved in a wide range of community activities and makes significant contributions to non-profit and charitable organizations serving the islands.

EMO warns of high surf today

The CNMI Emergency Management Office issued a high surf advisory yesterday, advising the public to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along eastern exposures as rip currents are life threatening.

The advisory will remain in effect until 6pm today, March 23, 2010,

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, fresh trade winds are expected through Wednesday and waves are projected to reach 10 feet today, falling to near 9 feet Tuesday night and Wednesday.

"Surf will be hazardous at 10 to 12 feet along east facing reefs Tuesday. Surf should fall below hazardous levels by Tuesday evening. …Seas 10 feet or higher will produce marine conditions hazardous to small craft," EMO said.

Inexperienced mariners, particularly those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these conditions. If navigation is necessary take precautions. ***(EMO)***

Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Covenant Party of the Northern Mariana Islands would like to invite families and friends in celebration of

'Covenant Day'

on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church.

Please join us for food, fun and entertainment

Emergency responders get 198 new radios

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Special Assistant for Homeland Security Patrick Tenorio, Emergency Management Office director Joaquin Omar, and DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela present Gov. Benigno R. Fitial with the new radio units at the governor's conference room yesterday morning.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security has received 198 new handheld radio devices as part of a $700,000 Homeland Security grant.

Special Assistant for Homeland Security Patrick Tenorio, Emergency Management Office director Joaquin Omar, and DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela presented the new units to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial at the governor's conference room yesterday morning.

Tudela told the governor that the new units are much more secured and sophisticated as they are P25 800MHz Digital Narrow Band-compatible. The new digital units will phase out the use of analog units to further improve the line of communication for all emergency responders.

Tenorio explained that the distribution of the new units to all emergency responders will ensure that every police and fire personnel will be properly equipped with a handheld device at all times. Tenorio also reported that work is currently in progress to upgrade the radio systems throughout the Commonwealth.

Fitial lauded the efforts of OHS, EMO and DPS for their outstanding work in securing the award for the new devices. "The ongoing upgrades to our communications system is symbolic of our continued commitment to ensure that the proper agencies are always ready to respond to emergencies," said Fitial. "The safety and welfare of our Commonwealth should never be compromised."

In line with the upgrading of systems, Omar issued a memo informing all department and activity heads to ensure that all new procurements for handheld radios are for devices that are "P25, 800MHz Digital Narrow Band upgradeable."

"Upon completion of the upgrade, the analog repeaters will be taken offline," Omar said. ***(PR)***

Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The persons featured in last week's photo have been identified as Maximina Selepeo Saures, left, and Ignacia Selepeo Igisomar of Chalan Kanoa, District 4 in 1977. They were identified by Leilah Olopai, Diego Rebuenog, Emilia Saures, and Maria Saures Islam.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OES kindergarten registration to start April 5

Kindergarten registration at Oleai Elementary School for school year 2010-2011 will begin on April 5, 2010 and ends on April 30, 2010 from 9am to 4pm daily.

Kindergarten students must be born between Sept. 1, 2004 to Aug. 30, 2005. Birth certificate, school entrance health certificate (updated), current school accident/ health insurance/Medicaid (updated), map of residence, and legal adoption/guardianship documents (court issued) are required for enrollment.

The OES zone covers the areas bounded by south of Naked Fish on Beach Road, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kiya (golf course), bottom of As Terlaje Hill, north of Island Market (Calvo's) to Falughula and San Jose (Oleai). ***(PR)***

Chamorro radio talk show to feature Demapan

Indigenous Affairs Office acting resident executive director Ignacio DLG. Demapan will appear on the Marianas Agupa Chamorro radio talk show this Saturday, March 27, 2010, from 9:30am to 10am on Magic 100.3 FM. Demapan will be discussing the upcoming Indigenous Conference, targeted to promote and to benefit Chamorros and Carolinians. The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and airs every Saturday from 9am to 11am. Simultaneous Internet via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

WELCOME TO THE TEENS!

Happy Birthday to our son, Pedro David Maratita Tenorio, who turns "13" today, March 23rd. Wishing you a very blessed birthday and may all your dreams come true. Strive for the best always! We love you from Mom, Uncle Gene, Justis, Tori, Jojo, Garrett and the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 23, 1999

Review of power project sent to AG

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday tossed to the Attorney General's Office for review the results of an independent evaluation that upheld a previous decision of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to award the $120 million power contract to Marubeni-Sithe. The governor met with officials of the utilities company, the public auditor and the AGO to discuss the next step the CNMI would take to resolve the remaining kinks impeding the construction of the 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan. Tenorio told reporters a decision was held off until the AGO comes up with recommendations whether to proceed with the second phase of the evaluation.

CUC shuts down three water wells

Three more water wells have been shut down for good by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in the past three months due to deterioration and possible health risks to residents. These wells are located in Koblerville, Kagman and Sadog Tasi which were decommissioned as part of the quarterly plan to close down salty groundwater source. The World Health Organization has also warned against their failure to meet standards for conductivity and chloride levels as some Saipan wells have exceeded the allowable limit, according to utility officials. The government-owned utility firm has blamed the problem to the drought triggered by El Nino, a worldwide weather phenomenon that brought little rain and lengthened dry season in areas across the Pacific.

March 23, 2000

Amendments to fair labor bill sought

Acting Attorney General Herb Soll yesterday called for changes on the proposed comprehensive labor laws under review by the House of Representatives, which he said could give more freedom to nonresident workers whose presence in the CNMI should be kept under control. He also said provisions of the legislation should be re-examined, noting that the existing mechanism resolving disputes between workers and employers has curbed labor abuses on the island. Testifying before a hearing conducted by the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, he stressed HB 12-134 would allow thousands of guest workers to move freer than what they are currently enjoying.

Proposal granting special incentives to investor junked

House members have junked a Senate proposal to tie to higher minimum wage the plan by the Rota municipality to entice a Japanese wine company into investing on the island by granting incentives, such as tax breaks and infrastructure support. The lower chamber scrapped an initial joint resolution encouraging the Unkai Distillery Co. to establish a Shochu plant on Rota after the Senate amended the measure to include as a condition for these incentives a minimum wage at par with the federal level of $5.15 an hour. To pursue the issue, the House instead adopted the other day a new resolution to underscore the need to provide assistance to the distillery company in establishing the Shochu plant on the island.

March 23, 2001

Saipan braces for new power plant

There is nothing in writing yet to confirm that a contract was signed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and Enron International Mariana Power Inc. However, reports said major disagreements have already been ironed out which virtually clears the road for the eventual execution of an agreement to proceed with the construction of the controversial 60-megawatt power plant. In fact, both parties have agreed to work within a specific timeframe, under which period an official deal should already be in place.

DLNR, MRC urged to amend Marina deal

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources should either amend its leasing agreement with Marine Revitalization Corporation in the operation of the Outer Cove Marina or find another company to manage it. These were the recommendations made by the Office of Public Auditor on the DLNR-MRC agreement for operating the Outer Cove Marina covering the period May 1993 to October 1998. The audit revealed that both parties failed to comply with most of the terms of their lease agreement. For instance, the report cited, the department failed to prevent boats from being moored at the Smiling Cove Marina. On the case of MRC, the audit said, of the 76 boat slips MRC promised to build at the Outer Cove Marina, only a total of 45 were actually constructed.

ZONING OFFICE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

The Zoning Office will be holding workshops to promote educational awareness of the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law, as well as to seek comments on how the law is working. These workshops are in line with the Zoning Board's goal of addressing the issues and concerns expressed by the community, private sector and the legislature as it prepares for the law's review and update. The public consultation and information campaign will continue over the next month in order to obtain feedback required to update the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law. Please note the following changes made to the dates, times, and target group for the coming days:

Wednesday, March 31, 2010	**9:00 to 10:00am** **New Business Developers**
Wednesday, March 31, 2010	**2:00 to 3:00pm** **Surveyors**
Wednesday, April 7, 2010	**9:00 to 10:00am** **Engineers/ Architects**
Wednesday, April 7, 2010	**2:00 to 3:00pm** **Adult Businesses**
Wednesday, April 14, 2010	**2:00 to 3:00pm** **Government Agencies**

All workshops will be held at the Zoning Office conference room, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. Anyone with questions about the meetings may contact the Zoning Office by phone at 234-9661 or by e-mail at staff @zoning.gov.mp.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS ZONING BOARD TO HOST VILLAGE MEETINGS

The Zoning Board and Office will hold a round of village meetings to seek comments about how the current zoning law is working, and will update and revise the current zoning law with the goal of addressing the issues and concerns expressed by the community, private sector and the legislature. The public consultation and information campaign over the next two months will continue in order to obtain feedback required to update the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law. Meeting dates and locations which have been confirmed are:

Tuesday, March 23, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**Garapan & Gualo Rai Villages** **@ Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria**
Thursday, March 25, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**San Jose Village** **@ Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria**
Tuesday, March 30, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**Tanapag Village** **@ Tanapag Elementary School Cafeteria**
Tuesday, April 6, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**Kagman and Capitol Hill Villages** **@ Kagman Community Center**
Thursday, April 8, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**San Vicente Village** **@ San Vicente Elementary School Cafeteria**
Thursday, April 15, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**Dandan Village** **@ Dandan Elementary School Cafeteria**
Tuesday, April 20, 2010	**6:00 PM**	**San Roque Village** **@ GTC Elementary School Cafeteria**

The Board encourages anyone with suggestions that might improve the language of the law, or changes to the zone boundaries to attend. Comments may be submitted orally or in writing at the meeting. Written suggestions may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, April 30, 2010 or they may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

Anyone with questions about the meetings may contact the Zoning Office by phone at 234-9661 or by e-mail at staff @zoning.gov.mp.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
DPW10-RFP-008

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
FOR THE CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-B
CM-NH-0031 (015)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services for the Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase II-B (CNMI).**

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 4-102 of the Procurement Regulations.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization **(COA)** from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **March 23, 2010** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **April 9, 2010**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **April 26, 2010**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:
1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) **– 25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) **– 30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) **– 25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) **– 20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-008"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 29, 2010**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **April 29, 2010** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 29, 2010 and must be received no later than **May 10, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government, factors such as the prices proposed by other firms responding to the solicitation shall be considered. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301.

This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Aquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-10-022

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply 3-PHASE TRANSFORMERS.

Emergency generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC takes down existing generator sets for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. All existing engines already overdue for overhauls and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not planned, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until Wednesday, March 31, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-022 "ROTA 3-PHASE TRANSFORMERS"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Thursday, April 08, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

With respect to bidders' employment of labor as an element of a bid, the Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page — http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Monday, April 05, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young. Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 69

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The education president

(c) 2010, Chicago Tribune

Rhode Island's Central Falls High School faces a world of problems. Not quite half of the freshmen class of 2005 went on to graduate last year. A little more than half of the juniors passed a state reading test. In math, just 7 percent passed.

Superintendent Frances Gallo asked her teachers to step up, to help her turn around their failing school. She asked them to teach 25 minutes more each day. She asked them to tutor the kids, to eat lunch once a week with the kids, to spend more time learning how to teach effectively.

She also offered to increase their pay. Teachers at Central Falls do well: $72,000 to $78,000 a year. Gallo offered them a $3,400 bump.

The teachers union said no.

So last month, Gallo and the school board fired the entire staff.

That shocked the teachers. They were probably even more stunned by the response of President Barack Obama, who was endorsed in 2008 by the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan stood squarely with Gallo.

The superintendent showed "courage," Duncan said.

"(I)f a school continues to fail its students year after year after year, if it doesn't show signs of improvement, then there's got to be a sense of accountability. And that's what happened in Rhode Island," Obama said.

Imagine that.

■■■

Health-care reform has sucked all of the oxygen out of Washington these days. But education could turn out to be the most profoundly successful domestic initiative of the Obama administration.

The president has smartly used sticks and carrots to force change in the sclerotic education establishment.

■ He has dangled $4.35 billion, available to states that hike standards, demand accountability for teachers and administrators, and promote innovations such as charter schools. Sixteen states, including Illinois, are finalists for the first grants in Obama's Race to the Top program.

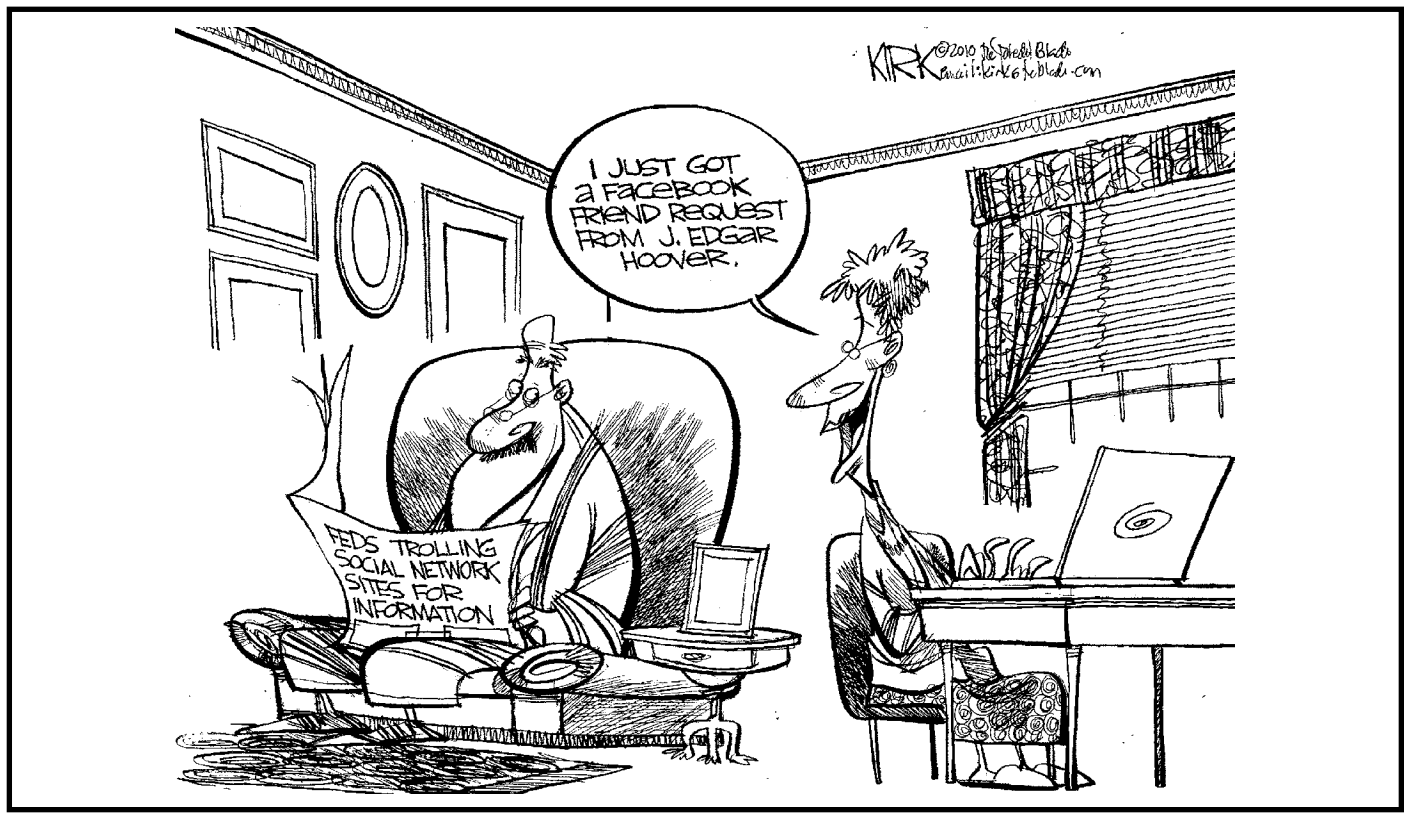
We'd prefer that Washington didn't have to bribe the states to promote such changes. But the competition for Race to the Top challenge grants seems to be prompting change. Question now: Will Obama and Duncan draw a tough line on the first round of awards, which will be announced in April?

"Winning will require excellence," Duncan said, promising that there would be "very few winners."

Watch what happens with finalists New York and North Carolina, which still have strict caps on charter schools, and Kentucky, which doesn't allow charters. If they win, Race to the Top will look more like an aimless federal cash giveaway.

■ Obama this week proposed an overhaul of No Child Left Behind, the federal education law. At first blush, it looks like a well-guided attempt to thwart states that have set low bars for student achievement and give schools more flexibility in how they measure progress. The focus would be more intense on the lowest performing schools, and on preparing students for college and work.

If you're keeping score, some business leaders have applauded Obama's plan, while leaders of the NEA and AFT have been critical. That suggests education reform, unlike health care reform, has a chance to draw bipartisan support.



For what it's worth

There's battle lines being drawn
Nobody's right if everybody's wrong . . . .

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

The above quote, as well as the title of this column and the quote at the column's end, comes from an anthem of another era, by the band Buffalo Springfield. As we alluded in our last column, battle lines are being drawn, and it is difficult for all of us to know who is right and who is wrong. As is often the case when positions are polarized, there is a lot of rhetoric coming from both sides, but the likely outcome of the matter will probably be somewhere in between the two absolute positions. Last week, we focused on the federal government's position with respect to its assertion of authority over the terms and conditions of employment for foreign workers in the Commonwealth. This week we focus on the CNMI government's position.

The past week, the CNMI position was clarified and consolidated by the issuance of three separate documents: (1) Attorney General's Opinion No. 2010-10; (2) "Questions and Answers" issued by the Governor's Office and signed by Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, in response to the Questions & Answers previously issued by USCIS; and (3) the passage by both Houses of the Legislature of H.B. 17-25, "The Immigration Conformity Act of 2010." All three of these documents are designed to articulate and bolster the CNMI's position regarding its own assertion of continuing authority over foreign labor. We will summarize each one in turn.

Attorney General's Opinion No. 2010-10

When there is no legal precedent on a legal issue, a formal opinion issued by the Attorney General controls as the correct interpretation of the law until such time that a court decides otherwise. The issue of what authority the CNMI retains regarding foreign labor after the implementation of P.L. 110-229 (the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, aka "CNRA") has not yet been tested in any court. Until them, AG Opinion 2010-10 controls as to the CNMI government's interpretation of the law. What does this mean? It simply means that the CNMI government, and its officials and agents, must act in accordance with that opinion. It also means that if they do so, they will likely be protected by the doctrine of "qualified immunity," under which—all else being equal—officials who obey facially valid laws are immune from personal liability for their official acts.

AG Opinion 2010-10, issued on March 15, 2010, examines a very narrow issue: Does the CNRA preempt—and therefore prevent—the Commonwealth from administering, and in the proper circumstances, revoking, the "legacy" Commonwealth immigration status of aliens lawfully present in the Commonwealth on Nov. 28, 2009? The opinion therefore does not address the question of aliens who were out of status on Nov. 28, nor does it address any issues of aliens coming into the Commonwealth after Nov. 28 nor, finally, does it address any issues regarding aliens who convert to a federal immigration status after Nov. 28. It only speaks to those aliens who were legally present in the Commonwealth on Nov. 28 by virtue of either an existing permit, an umbrella permit, or both, and the Commonwealth's control, if any, between now and Nov. 27, 2011.

With respect to the affected group, the opinion concludes that "the CNRA does not preempt the Commonwealth from administering, and revoking, the Commonwealth immigration status of aliens lawfully present in the Commonwealth on Nov. 28, 2009, during the CNRA's two-year transition period." This reiterates CNMI DOL's position that it has continued authority over umbrella permits and that workers must continue to comply with CNMI labor law if they wish to use their umbrella permits as their work authorization. With respect to its continued administrative function, the opinion contemplates that CNMI DOL will continue to ensure compliance with the following principles:

(1) that there is a legitimate business need for the worker;

(2) that no U.S. citizen or person with U.S. federal employment authorization can be found to fill the position;

(3) that the employer can afford to pay the worker's salary, medical expenses and repatriation expenses; and

(4) that the employer must purchase a bond insuring the employer's obligation to pay the worker's salary, and medical expenses and repatriation expenses .

The opinion justifies the continued need for the CNMI to administer the umbrella permit program through Nov. 27, 2011, by arguing that is it illogical and impractical for the CNRA to allow this limited CNMI status to continue without a mechanism to control and administer it. The AG's Opinion argues that the federal government is without the authority to administer a CNMI created program, and therefore it stands to reason that the CNMI must. The opinion raises the specter of unemployed foreign workers, and their dependent families, becoming a burden on the Commonwealth. So we can anticipate, unless this issue is otherwise resolved by the judiciary, that the CNMI will continue to claim authority over umbrella permit holders.

Governor's 'Questions and Answers'

The Governor's Q&A was also issued on March 15. It responds to the policy position set out in the federal government's Q&A, issued by USCIS on March 12. The subject matter of the Governor's Q&A is the same as the Attorney General's Opinion. It examines, in ordinary language, the extent to which the Governor believes that CNMI laws may continue to be enforced during the two-year period following Nov. 28, 2009. Not surprisingly, it comes to the same conclusion as the AG Opinion: umbrella permit holders must continue to report back to DOL on the report back date or risk hav-

See FOR WHAT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Uninformed, flawed, and unrealistic bill

The headline in Thursday's *Saipan Tribune*, "Senators Want Costly Driver's Education Class Suspended" pretty much says it all. The senators who voted for SB 17-20, apparently, want to shut down my small business. Anyone with an ounce of common sense should be able to ascertain that the rest of the bill is flawed and not realistic.

The suggestion that the Public School System take on the task of offering a driver education curriculum without providing any funding for teachers, automobiles, gasoline, maintenance, insurance, etc. is simply ludicrous and irresponsible. Additionally, SB 17-20 suggests that PSS take on the responsibility of educating the students who attend the non-public high schools.

How would that work? When would those students attend classes and participate in the Laboratory Program. Would those students be required to pay for the classes? It's just too mind-boggling to even consider.

The bill also states that "The Legislature finds that the predicament can be resolved if the Public School System establishes a Student Driver Education Program like *many* of the public schools in the US jurisdictions" (emphasis added).

Does the author of this bill have any statistical data to support this claim? One only needs to look to Guam to see that the Driver Education Program in the Guam Public Schools was dropped in 1997 due to a lack of funding and personnel issues. My trip back to Ohio in December netted the same findings.

Lost in this bill is the fact that PL 15-25 requires that *all* persons complete and pass a Driver's Education course as a prerequisite for the issuance of an initial driver's license within the CNMI. SB 17-20 only addresses those students who are 16 to 18 years of age. There is no reference relative to those individuals who are not enrolled in the CNMI high schools.

The suspension of PL 15-25 would also allow those individuals to obtain their licenses without any schooling, and no provision in the bill is offered to address this issue at a later date. Forty-one percent of my students are older than 18 years of age.

What will happen if SB 17-20 becomes law? That's simple. The "temporary suspension" will become permanent and the efforts of the 14th and 15th Legislatures will go for naught. (The Mandatory Driver Education Law was actually passed twice. Lawmakers in the 15th Legislature felt that a similar bill which was passed by 14th Legislature and vetoed by Governor Babauta was important enough to reintroduce and send to Governor Fitial for his signature.)

The standards for obtaining a driver's license would, once again, be lowered and the CNMI would return to status quo.

The bill rationalizes that the students of Saipan are now driving illegally because they cannot afford the tuition. Where is the data for that assertion?

Sadly, anyone who has lived here for any length of time knows that this problem also existed prior to the enforcement of PL 15-25 along with counterfeit licenses, and illegally-purchased licenses.

PL 15-25 actually assisted in the apprehension of the two individuals in June 2009 who were extorting money from individuals for driver licenses and permits, simply because the law creates a paper trail. I have searched the papers for accounts of similar arrests over the years and have found none. Was this the first?

The tuition that we charge is also an issue that needs to be addressed. The price of gasoline in the CNMI is significantly higher than anywhere in the United States including high-end markets like New York City, Los Angeles, and Hawaii. Petrol, automobile maintenance, insurance, rent, taxes, and CUC utilities significantly impact our gross revenues.

The $350 is the same tuition that we charged when gasoline was $2.82 per gallon. The price of a gallon of gasoline is now $3.77 and could reach $4 before the end of 2010. Everything is expensive here. It's the price one pays for living on an island.

To ease the impact of our tuition, our students are given the option of paying the tuition in three installments. Those installments are collected over a minimum period of five months.

In a free enterprise system, prices are lowered when there is competition and not by interference from the Legislature (unfortunately, competition is not a factor in the CNMI for gasoline prices). The fact that we are the only commercial enterprise offering this service speaks volumes. The hours are long, the business is expensive to run, and the net is not as lucrative as some might want to believe.

Even so, I am somewhat perplexed by the fact that no one has opened a school on Rota and/or Tinian. Why is that? It is most certainly not the fault of PL 15-25.

So where do we go from here?

I would encourage my students, their parents, significant others, and/or friends come forward and weigh in on this issue before the law is addressed in the House. Share your thoughts and concerns regardless of whether they are positive or negative. Be involved. Be heard. It's the only way the members of the House can make an informed decision.

Richard Puhalla
ISTS/DTA
Owner/Operator

Three reasons to abolish Article XII

First, I am a student at the Marianas Baptist Academy and, although I am Korean, I was born on this island and Saipan is home to me so I will address myself as a local. I want to speak on what I believe and what I know. I believe that we should get rid of Article XII or change the law because of three reasons.

First, the idea of keeping the land and passing it on to our offspring is not a wrong thing or bad thing, but it's a very dogmatic thought. The whole world is going global, where all people enjoy all parts of the world, but our idea of us keeping our lands to ourselves is very selfish and frugal. Article XII was made to protect our lands because of ancestral reasons but the CNMI is no longer a society where only the indigenous live in and we have to accept the fact that we are all equal and should all have equal property rights.

Second, the idea of borrowing or leasing is a squander to big investors. Who would want to start a business that would be gone in 50 years? The reason why we don't have big shopping malls is because investors don't want to create big businesses because they would lose more than gain, and if investors buy our lands our economy would go up because huge amounts of money will be spent on the island.

Third, if we remove Article XII, foreigners or "indigenous people" would not have to borrow land; they would have to buy land. This would have a huge effect on Saipan. When people borrow or lease land and a house, they could just leave when they want to and they would not think themselves as residents but if they buy land they would stay here, start a living here, and our population would grow. Population is important to Saipan because the lack of medical care and shopping is because we don't have enough population, and the benefits of a growing population are not only enjoyed by the foreigners but also us locals.

The three reasons I have stated are not the only benefits that we can enjoy if we void Article XII. There would be great changes in our economy, but even though the law changes it won't make a difference if we the locals don't change our thoughts and our stubbornness.

Augustine Chang
As Lito, Saipan

Thanks to zoning law

I'm glad that there isn't a church next to my house. I live in a quiet residential neighborhood, free from the traffic, noise, and occasionally inconsiderate people that necessarily come with a church.

I am thankful that there is a zoning law that will make sure that my concerns are heard if someone wanted to start a church or business next to my house. I am certain that any congressman would be equally thankful if someone wanted to start a pig farm or auto body shop next to his.

Michael A. White
Dandan, Saipan

Try harder

Ms. Cinta Kaipat: This is with regards to your reply to my letter, which was published in the newspaper March 22, 2010. My response, try harder next time!

Listen now, holders of umbrella permit! Yes it is true, CNMI DOL can revoke this permit on two basis:

1) When you commit a criminal offense;

2) When you go to CNMI DOL on the date of your revocation.

So, my advice: Do not commit any crime and do not go to CNMI DOL on the date of revocation stated on your umbrella permit!

Malou H. Berueco
As Gonno, Saipan

ERRATUM

In a letter to the editor published yesterday titled, "Utilize Saipan Zoning Law of 2008," the word "innocence" in the first paragraph was incorrectly typed as "incense." Our apologies. The complete sentence should read: "It would appear to be a "miracle" to say that your position in this matter was of complete innocence, and Pastor Kalei of the New Beginning Ministries has lied in all of her accusations against your office."

FOR WHAT

From Page 10

ing their umbrella permits revoked. It also reiterates CNMI law that persons with investor permits can only work in their own business, and students may work only under very limited circumstances. The Governor's Q&A states that persons whose umbrella permits are revoked will be referred to ICE for removal proceedings. It also states that foreign workers may not be hired in the private sector without prior DOL approval.

H.B. 17-25, The Immigration Conformity Act of 2010

On Friday, March 19, both Houses of the CNMI Legislature, in back to back sessions, passed H.B. 17-25, the Immigration Conformity Act of 2010. The bill amends Public Law 15-108, which was a comprehensive re-enactment of the CNMI's labor laws in November 2007. The stated intent of the bill is "to reflect the assumption of immigration responsibilities by the federal government." The following are the major elements of the legislation:

(1) All references to immigration authority and to immigration functions are deleted;

(2) The issuance of umbrella permits is retroactively ratified and legitimated; hearing officers are given specific authority to revoke umbrella permits;

(3) The right of a foreign worker to bring a direct action in Superior Court to enforce an administrative award against non-paying employers and non-performing bonding companies is confirmed;

(4) FAS citizens and their immediate relatives, as well as immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents are excluded from the local content requirement in hiring;

(5) The fixed percentage (20 percent) of local participation in each employer's workforce in hiring is eliminated; it is replaced by an "floating percentage" based on the percentage of U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents and CNMI Permanent residents "in the available private sector workforce;"

(6) A system of "identification cards" is established in lieu of the former "entry permits;" umbrella permit holders are required to also have identification cards; aliens in non-worker categories (such as immediate relatives) are also required to have identification cards;

(7) The employer's responsibility for medical costs and repatriation of foreign national workers is retained;

(8) The powers of the Hearing Office to adjudicate claims and grant transfers is retained;

(9) The requirement for an approved contract of employment is retained;

(10) All references to "deportation" are amended to read "repatriation;"

(11) The authority to assess fees by the Department of Labor is retained.

This piece of legislation was enacted under considerable pressure from the Fitial administration. The CNMI needed to stake out and assert its position regarding control over the foreign labor in response to the federal government's recent preemption policy pronouncements. The new law does more: the new rules regarding FAS citizens and IRs, and calculation of percentage of local participation in each employer's workforce, are major changes to existing law.

It remains to be seen how this will play out over the months to come. In the meantime, we continue to advise employee clients to comply with the terms of their umbrella permits if at all possible, and we advise employer clients to be cautious before wholly adopting the federal policy position; to do so otherwise is to risk sanctions by the CNMI authorities and, win or lose, a lot more expense than the cost of compliance. We continue to eagerly await the publication of final rules for "CW" and "CNMI E2" status, so that members of our foreign population who are not eligible for more restricted U.S. visa categories may finally begin transitioning to U.S. immigration status.

There's something happening here
What it is ain't exactly clear…
For what it's worth.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

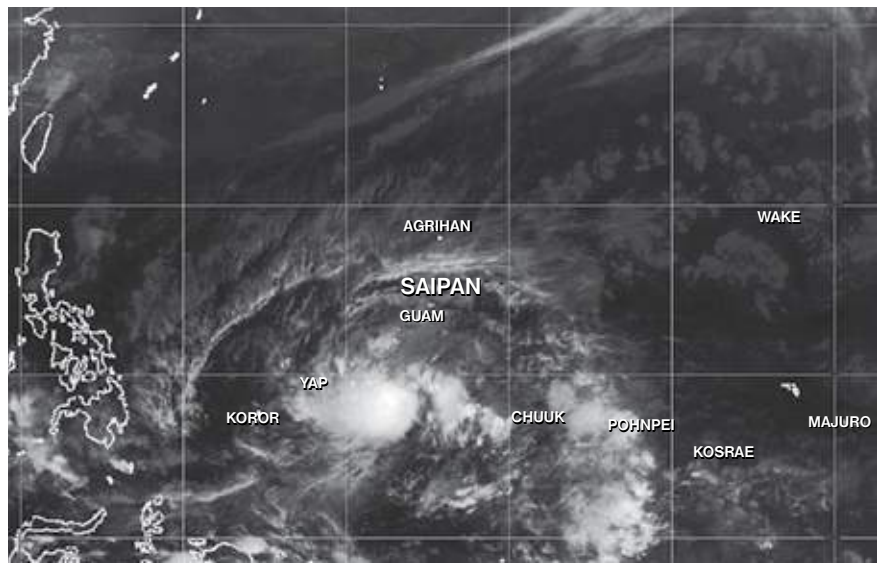
Auckland	Showers	▲68	▼62
Beijing	Cloudy	▲48	▼32
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲81	▼70
Honolulu	Showers	▲81	▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼45
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲70	▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲89	▼76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲74	▼57
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼60
New York	Rain	▲53	▼46
Osaka	Rain	▲54	▼44
Paris	Dreary	▲56	▼45
Pusan	Rain	▲53	▼43
Rome	Cloudy	▲65	▼51
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼46
Seoul	Cloudy	▲52	▼34
Tokyo	Rain	▲56	▼42
Washington, DC	Showers	▲57	▼45

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:54 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
11:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends northeastward from south of the Philippines through 2N130E to a tropical disturbance centered southeast of Yap near 5N144E then turns southeastward to end at EQ152E. This disturbance is the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert issued by JTWC under the WMO header WTPN21 PGTW. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the disturbance center south of Guam between 4N and 9N from 141E to 148E. Low-level convergence north and northeast of the disturbance is producing scattered showers just southeast of Guam in a triangular area bounded by a line from 9N142E to 14N147E to 9N155E back to 9N142E. Converging south winds to the east of the disturbance are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk between the equator and 9N from 148E to 156E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls between the equator and 5N from 165E to 180. Scattered showers are found northeast of Majuro within 95 miles of a line from 9n173e to 11n180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:35 AM	12:06 AM
Wednesday	12:36 PM	1:03 AM
Thursday	1:38 PM	1:58 AM
Friday	2:40 PM	2:49 AM
Saturday	3:40 PM	3:38 AM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- CAMPUS BULLETIN
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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 23, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Tinian students get a head start with Start Smart

The Northern Marianas College hosted a Start Smart Seminar at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino last Wednesday, March 17, 2010.

The seminar drew over 115 participants, which were composed of students from the NMC Tinian Adult Basic Education program and juniors and senior students of Tinian Junior and Senior High School.

NMC organizers, along with students, faculty and staff of TJSHS, pose for a photo after the seminar.

NMC

Far left, NMC student Donovan Castro explains the benefits of going through SROTC versus directly enlisting.

NMC

Left, NMC Accreditation Liaison Officer Galvin Deleon Galvin plays a game of "Simon Says" with the participants of the event before briefing them about the NMC's accreditation history and how it successfully acquired full accreditation.

NMC

Right, panelists share their experiences in high school and in college. From left to right, Patrick Manglona, Mariana Omengkar, Kimberly Hinds, Jonathan Diaz and Ignacio Kiyoshi.

NMC

Far right, TJSHS students share moments of laughter during an ice breaker activity facilitated by NMC dean Leo Pangelinan.

NMC

NMC

TJSHS vice principal and the emcee of the Start Smart Seminar, Eric San Nicolas, assists students fill up financial aid forms, as a part of their hands-on exercise.

NMC

Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco was a guest speaker during the seminar.

NMC

Board of Regents chair Janet H. King gives her welcoming remarks.

NMC

NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera advises students not to ever let anyone convince them otherwise about the importance of higher education.

Business

Air travelers to see tougher security before beach

ATLANTA (AP)—For those who haven't flown in a while, be prepared to be scanned, swabbed or thoroughly patted down. Maybe all three.

Many spring break travelers are about to have their first encounter with airport security measures stepped up after Christmas, when a man was accused of trying to blow up a U.S. jetliner using explosives hidden in his underwear.

As the extra measures are rolled out and travel demand picks up, security lines are expected to grow. Airlines, meanwhile, worry the government will require them to pay to maintain the beefed-up security checkpoints.

The Obama administration is committing tens of millions of dollars to deploy more state-of-the-art screening equipment, and it is tightening enforcement of some older security measures.

For example:

■ There are now 44 full-image body scanners at 21 U.S. airports, a 10 percent increase from before Christmas. Chicago's O'Hare and Boston's Logan are the latest airports to add these. Nearly 1,000 scanners will be in use nationwide by the end of next year.

■ The use of "swabs," or Explosive Trace Detection machines, has been expanded in recent weeks. Security agents are now more frequently roaming boarding areas and security lines with portable machines, which can detect traces of explosives after a cotton swab is applied to hands or luggage.

■ The Transportation Security Administration has sought to make screening less predictable. At some airports, passengers are asked to choose between a body scan or a pat down. A passenger who refuses a 30-second body scan may receive a two- to four-minute manual pat down.

A passenger might proceed to their plane after clearing just one form of screening. Or they could run the gamut like software executive Bob Thomas did on a recent flight departing from Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airport.

A gum wrapper made of aluminum foil in Thomas' pocket set off a metal detector. After that, he went into a cylindrical machine 6-foot-wide by more than 8-foot-high to have his body image taken. Next came the hand swab. Lastly, he sat down and lifted his legs for a pat down by an airport screener. All clear.

For the former Marine officer, the extra few minutes were "a big waste of my time." But he understands the agents' predicament. "They don't know" which passenger is a potential threat, he said.

Fliers say they are understanding of the new measures, but nevertheless agitated by them.

Merle Thompson, a 77-year-old retired college professor from Alexandria, Va., recently got a taste of the enhanced screening measures.

Because her steel replacement knee often sets off the walk-through metal detectors, agents usually screen her with a hand wand. But that wasn't enough ahead of a recent flight to San Francisco from Washington, D.C.

"They patted me down," Thompson said. "Which I found humorous and ridiculous."

In a recent survey of more than 3,200 U.S. air travelers by travel Web site TripAdvisor, 39 percent cited long security lines as the most annoying part of being at an airport.

AP

Travelers wait in line as they enter a security checkpoint at Logan International Airport in Boston Monday, March 8, 2010.

IMF warns wealthiest nations about their debt

BEIJING (AP)—The International Monetary Fund warned the world's wealthiest nations Sunday to watch their surging levels of government debt, saying it could drag down the growth needed to ensure continued economic recovery.

The economic crisis is leaving "deep scars in fiscal balances, particularly in the advanced economies," John Lipsky, the IMF's No 2. official, told the China Development Forum in Beijing. He said that countries that have been going into debt to stimulate their economies should now prepare for belt-tightening steps next year.

"Policymakers should be making it clear to their citizens why a return to prudent policies is a necessary condition for sustained economic health," said Lipsky, who is the fund's deputy managing director, according to remarks prepared for the conference.

The IMF projects that gross general government debt in the G-7 advanced economies, except Germany and Canada, will rise from an average of about 75 percent of GDP at the end of 2007 to about 110 percent of GDP at end of 2014, Lipsky said.

This year, the average debt-to-GDP ratio in the wealthiest countries is projected to reach levels that prevailed in 1950 in the aftermath of World War II, Lipsky said. The ballooning of government debt also comes amid rising health and pension spending, he said.

"Addressing this fiscal challenge is a key near-term priority, as concerns about fiscal sustainability could undermine confidence in the economic recovery," Lipsky said, adding that in the medium term, large public debt could lead to higher interest rates and slower growth.

Countries should aggressively pursue reforms that will boost growth, such as the liberalization of goods and labor markets and the elimination of tax distortions, he said, though such moves on their own will be insufficient without direct measures to reduce spending.

They should also strengthen fiscal institutions in ways that could include improving tax collection and reinforcing fiscal responsibility legislation, while pursuing entitlement reforms, such as increasing the retirement age, to help in restoring finances, he said.

For the United States, Lipsky said a higher public savings rate will be required to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability.

Investors learn to accept bad housing numbers

NEW YORK (AP)—The housing market is still in bad shape, but investors don't seem to mind.

While this week brings reports on sales of new and existing homes in February, there are no signs of heightened anxiety in the stock market. That's a big change from one and two years ago, when these numbers were often horrific enough to send investors running. In recent months, traders have shrugged off some ugly figures. The reason: Steadying home prices are good enough for now.

Even tentative stability is welcome news after price drops of more than 50 percent in some markets. The slide in prices pounded consumers whose home is often their single biggest investment. The number of foreclosures is still going up, but they are happening at a slower pace. That's allowing the real estate market to absorb the added supply without sending prices spiraling again.

Many investors think that housing won't cause more huge problems for the economy if prices hold. The drop in prices is still hard on people who owe more than their home is worth, of course. But those problems are well-known to investors.

"That's not a new story," said Ashish Shah, head of credit strategy at Barclays Capital in New York.

Insurers, doctor-owned hospitals get late help

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tucked into President Barack Obama's health care bill are several 11th-hour changes that help major insurance companies and doctor-owned hospitals.

Among the beneficiaries, according to lobbyists and congressional aides, are Kaiser Permanente, the giant California-based insurance company; Geisinger Health Plan based in Pennsylvania; and doctor-owned health facilities in about a dozen states, including Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

House leaders hoped to approve the revisions Sunday when lawmakers vote on the health care legislation. They were included in a 153-page bill revising the giant Senate-passed overhaul package, and in separate language that Democrats plan to add.

Some of the special deals in the health care bill have been widely derided by Republicans and Democrats, and a few have been dropped.

Last year, to help win the vote of Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., the massive Senate measure had included $100 million that only Nebraska would get in added federal Medicaid assistance. Dubbed the Cornhusker Kickback, it was eliminated in the revisions bill.

The latest changes to the bill include:

■ Tax-exempt insurers would have to pay a new fee levied on insurers on only half their premiums. Kaiser Permanente and Geisinger are both tax-exempt. Chris Stenrud, a Kaiser spokesman, said Sunday that his company believes the revisions hurt them because they may been exempted from the entire fee under a different provision in the health legislation that the revisions killed.

■ An Aug. 1, 2010, deadline on new doctor-owned hospitals to apply to the government for eligibility to serve—and get paid for—Medicare patients would be extended to Dec. 31. Aides and lobbyists said this would help roughly 13 facilities. These include Mercy Hospital in Monclova, Ohio; Scranton Orthopedic Specialists in Dickson City, Pa.; and Paragon Rehabilitation in Goodlettsville, Tenn.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asia stocks drop as Greek crisis, India hike weigh

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets fell Monday as worries about Greece's debt crisis and India's sudden interest rate hike rattled investors. Major indexes were down as much as 2 percent after selling hit U.S. and European markets on Friday. Oil prices fell toward $80 a barrel, while the euro slid further against the dollar. Anxiety over Greece's ability to pay its massive debts has weighed on investors in recent months. But with other countries that use the euro currency reluctant to come to Greece's aid, a solution has been out of reach. On Sunday, Germany's chancellor squelched talk a bailout might be discussed at this week's European summit.

Oil drops to near $80, extending Friday's losses

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices dropped to near $80 a barrel Monday in Asia, extending losses from Friday as a month-long rally fizzled out. Benchmark crude for April delivery was down 47 cents to $80.21 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dropped $1.52 to settle at $80.68 a barrel on Friday. Oil has bounced between $70 and $85 for most of the last nine months as the global economy recovers from last year's recession. Crude jumped to $83 a barrel last week from $69 early last month on expectations consumer demand will begin to pickup, but U.S. oil inventories have continued to grow in recent weeks.

Toyota shareholders sue over fallen stock price

MIAMI (AP)—Toyota shareholders incensed over a sudden drop in the Japanese automaker's stock price are heading to court with lawsuits claiming company executives deliberately misled investors and the public about the depth of accelerator problems in millions of its vehicles. At least three proposed class-action lawsuits filed by Toyota investors say the company gave false initial assurances that the sudden acceleration problem was a simple matter of floor mats trapping gas pedals, helping prop up the stock price. The shareholder cases are part of an avalanche of potentially costly lawsuits against Toyota Motor Corp. over the acceleration issue, including those filed by crash victims and their families and those brought by Toyota owners contending their vehicles are worth far less because of the recalls.

Nation

Obama achieves health law success that eluded past

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rarely does the government, that big, clumsy, poorly regarded oaf, pull off anything short of war that touches all lives with one act, one stroke of a president's pen. Such a moment has come.

After a year of riotous argument, decades of failure and a century of spoiled hopes, the United States is reaching for a system of medical care that extends coverage nearly to all citizens. The change that's coming will reshape a sixth of the economy and shatter the status quo.

To the ardent liberal, President Barack Obama's health care plan, passed by the House on Sunday night, is a shadow of what should have been, sapped by dispiriting downsizing and trade-offs.

To the loud foe on the right, it is a dreadful expansion of the nanny state.

Obama

To history, it is likely to be judged alongside the boldest acts of presidents and Congress in the pantheon of domestic affairs. Think of the guaranteed federal pensions of Social Security, socialized medicine for the old and poor, the civil rights remedies to inequality.

Change is coming, but in steps, not overnight. The major expansion of coverage to 32 million people—powered by subsidies, employer obligations, a mandate for most Americans to carry insurance, new places to buy it and rules barring insurance companies from turning sick people away—is four years out.

In contrast, on June 30, 1966, after a titanic struggle capped by the bill signing a year earlier, President Lyndon Johnson launched government health insurance for the elderly with three simple words, as if flicking a switch: "Medicare begins tomorrow."

Obama practically needs a spreadsheet to tell people what's going on and when with the law he will sign as soon as Monday.

Yet he and LBJ share a distinction: They are the only two presidents to succeed with a transcendent health care law.

You can be sure Obama, a student of history, is aware of how LBJ captured the moment when Medicare be-

What's in the bill?
Highlights of the health care overhaul legislation and when these provisions would take effect:
When it would take effect
$250 rebate to Medicare prescription drug beneficiaries who reach the coverage gap called the "doughnut hole"
Within a year
Provide immediate access to high-risk pools for people with no insurance because of pre-existing conditions
90 days after enactment
Bar insurers from:
• Denying people coverage when they get sick
• Denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions
• Imposing lifetime caps on coverage
6 months after enactment
Require insurers to allow young people to stay on their parents' policies until they turn 26
Require individual and small group market plans to sent 80 percent of premium dollars on medical services; large group plans would have to spend at least 85 percent
Jan. 1, 2011
Increase the Medicare payroll tax and expand to dividend, interest and other unearned income for singles earning more than $200,000 and joint filers making more than $250,000
2013
Provide subsidies for families earning up to 400 percent of poverty level, currently about $88,000 a year
Require most employers to provide coverage or face penalties
Require most people to obtain coverage or face penalties
2014
Impose 40% excise tax on high-end insurance policies
2018
Expand health insurance coverage to 32 million people
2019
• Savings of nearly $500 billion in Medicare and other government health programs by cutting waste, fraud and abuse and changing how doctors, hospitals and other are reimbursed
• Cut federal deficit by an estimated $143 billion over 10 years
DEFICIT
Source: Speaker of the House, Congressional Budget office, Kaiser Family Foundation
Graphic: Judy Treible, Lee Hulteng
© 2010 MCT

came law with his pen. That happened in Independence, Mo., in the presence of the very first American to sign up for the program: Harry Truman. The ex-president had ended a world war but could not achieve national health insurance in his time.

"Care for the sick, serenity for the fearful," Johnson promised that day. "In this town, and a thousand other towns like it, there are men and women in pain who will now find ease."

Said Truman: "I am glad to have lived this long."

Ted Kennedy lived long enough to see a goal of his lifetime take shape but not long enough for it to happen. His death last summer was almost the death of the whole plan because a Republican won his Senate seat, changed the voting balance and left despondent Democrats in search of a second wind, which they found.

Why is this so hard? In part, because self-reliance and suspicion of a strong central government intruding into people's lives are rooted in the founding of the republic, and still strong.

In 1854, President Franklin Pierce vetoed a national mental health bill on the basis that it would be unconstitutional to treat health as anything but a private matter that is none of the government's business.

Seventy-five years later, the American Medical Association denounced proposals for organized medical services as an "incitement to revolution" at the hands of "Medical Soviets."

And that wasn't even about government-run health care. The AMA's fierce opposition to collectivism included objections to private health insurance, the norm today, and the pooling of doctors into what became health maintenance organizations decades later.

No wonder would-be health reformers were thwarted one generation after another even as they made deep imprints on the nation in other ways.

Teddy Roosevelt couldn't do it—and he's carved into Mount Rushmore.

Franklin D. Roosevelt rewrote the social compact with his job and retirement security and regulatory expansion, all in the jagged teeth of the Depression, then took the nation to war. He made national health insurance a second-tier priority and it eluded him.

Even so, social responsibility for medicine grew.

In 1930, citizens paid nearly 80 percent of the nation's medical costs from their own pocket. Government at all levels covered a mere 14 percent, with industry and philanthropy picking up the few remaining crumbs. Insurance was barely in the picture. Federal and state programs now cover half the cost of health care purchased in the country and were expected to go over 50 percent in the next year or two even absent Obama's plan. By that measure, the government takeover of health care that opponents warn about is happening regardless of congressional action.

Why the creep of government in health care? In part, because individualism isn't the entire American story. The idea of watching out for each other is also in the nation's fabric.

On final day, Obama works vote outside public view

WASHINGTON (AP)—Capping a long day and a consuming political journey, President Barack Obama celebrated the passage of health care legislation on Sunday with hugs, high fives and an emboldened attitude. Said the president to the nation, "Tonight, we answered the call of history."

At nearly midnight in Washington, with a big swath of country asleep or headed that way, Obama strode into the ornate East Room with Vice President Joe Biden backing him. There was no hour too late for the president to embrace this moment.

"I want to thank every member of Congress who stood up tonight with courage and conviction to make health care reform a reality," Obama said as the top members of his own health care team stood beaming nearby. "I know this wasn't an easy vote for a lot of people. But it was the right vote."

Obama was proud but not unrestrained in victory, mindful that the Senate still has not gotten to a companion bill to fix problems with the one that just passed. The sense in the West Wing was one of perseverance after a debate with so many turns and doubts.

"We did not fear our future," Obama said. "We shaped it."

The final day had been a low-key one for Obama. No more fiery speeches, no trips to Capitol Hill, no ventures outside the White House gates at all.

Instead, the most visible spokesman for health care reform spent the final day of an exhaustive lobbying campaign out of public view.

Aides said he was roaming the West Wing, getting updates, calling lawmakers with thanks as a huge legislative win was imminent.

Tens of thousands rally for immigration reform

WASHINGTON (AP)—Frustrated with the lack of action to overhaul the country's immigration system, tens of thousands of demonstrators rallied on the National Mall and marched through the streets of the capital Sunday, waving American flags and holding homemade signs in English and Spanish.

Supporters traveled from around the country in hopes the rally would re-energize Congress to take up the volatile issue. Some lawmakers oppose any attempt to help an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants become U.S. citizens while others insist on stronger border controls first.

President Barack Obama, who promised to make overhauling the immigration system a top priority in his first year, sought to reassure those at the rally with a video message presented on giant screens at the National Mall. The president said he was committed to working with Congress this year on a comprehensive bill to fix a "broken immigration system."

Obama said problems include families being torn apart, employers gaming the system and police officers struggling to keep communities safe.

The president, whose comments were released as he worked to get last-minute votes on a health care overhaul, said he would do everything in his power to forge a bipartisan consensus on immigration reform. The House was expected to vote on the landmark health care legislation late Sunday.

Some demonstrators were disappointed there hasn't been more action a year into Obama's term.

"I understand it may not all be his (Obama's) fault," said Manuel Bettran, a 21-year-old college student from Chicago. "I am frustrated. I really wish not just him, but everybody, would take it more seriously. "

Bettran arrived in Washington on Sunday morning after a 13-hour bus ride. Like many, he had a personal connection to the issue. His parents were once illegal immigrants but were able to take advantage of an amnesty in the 1980s.

"Fortunately, they were able to become citizens during the last amnesty, but I know many people that weren't that lucky," said the American-born Bettran, adding that his brother was never able to gain legal status and had to leave the U.S.

Lawmakers failed to agree in 2006 and 2007 when they last tried to overhaul the immigration system, and the political climate is even tougher now.

ACROSS THE NATION

No injuries in emergency landing at O'Hare

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago officials say there were no injuries after an emergency landing at O'Hare International Airport. Chicago Department of Aviation spokeswoman Karen Pride says there was "a pressurization problem" on American Airlines Flight 2363, which landed about 10:30 a.m. Sunday. The flight had taken off from Chicago and returned there. Pride didn't have further details. An American Airlines spokesman didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. The airline's Web site says the flight was headed from O'Hare to the Yampa Valley Regional Airport in Colorado. It arrived at its destination after 1 p.m.—about two hours later than scheduled. Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford says there were 119 people aboard the Boeing 737.

Flood fears recede in Fargo as river hits crest

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—The good news was all about things that didn't happen: No floodwaters pushing aside hastily built sandbag walls, no neighborhoods evacuated, no panicked residents wondering if they'd ever see their homes again. The Red River crested in Fargo on Sunday without doing major damage, and city officials all but declared victory. A year after record flooding forced thousands in the area to evacuate and damaged about 100 homes, officials and residents used a host of lessons learned to prepare for this year's less intense—but still potentially destructive—rush of water. Thousands of volunteers, including young children, stacked more than 1 million sandbags and crews built miles of clay levees to keep the waters away. Officials gave residents tips on building better sandbag dikes, including clearing the ground of snow and ice that could be melted by floodwaters. And the city held exercises to map out the best routes for trucking sandbags to neighborhoods.

2 Baltimore officers shot during traffic stop

BALTIMORE (AP)—Two police officers who had pulled over a suspicious vehicle were shot and wounded by the driver, and the suspect was killed when the officers returned fire, Baltimore police said Sunday. Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld III said the officers will survive and are expected to undergo surgery at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center. One officer was shot in the right cheek, while the other was shot in the hand. A third officer also shot at the suspect. The names of the officers and the suspect were not immediately released because some family members had not yet been notified.

Asia

Thai PM offers talks with protesters after rally

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's prime minister said Sunday he will send representatives to hold talks with protesters who have been calling for him to step down, but his antagonists want to meet with him personally.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has so far held firm against demands from the so-called Red Shirt movement that he dissolve Parliament and call new elections, though he has said he is willing to consider the idea.

The Red Shirts, formally known as the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship, have been protesting for a week in Bangkok, and on Saturday showed their strength by having as many as 100,000 protesters clog the capital's streets with an all-day winding drive through its major thoroughfares.

Despite tying up traffic, they received an enthusiastic reception from unexpectedly large crowds of onlookers.

The mood soured Saturday night when grenades were tossed at two government-linked targets. At least one person was wounded at the site of a small explosion near the Defense Ministry, but there was no major damage there or at the headquarters of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, where the other blast took place.

Protest leaders during the week disavowed colleagues who threatened violence. No one took responsibility for Saturday night's blasts.

Abhisit, in one of several television appearances Sunday, praised the protesters for avoiding violence, but said talks were needed to wind down tension. He said two Cabinet-level officials would be sent Monday to hold talks that the National Human Rights Commission and several senators have been trying to broker.

US doctor charged in deaths pleads not guilty

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—An American doctor accused of repeatedly botching operations and performing surgeries he was not capable of handling pleaded not guilty Monday in Australia to three manslaughter charges and one of grievous bodily harm.

Indian-born Jayant Patel replied "not guilty, your honor" when the charges were read to him in a crowded courtroom just before jury selection began in the trial that is expected to take four to six weeks and hear some 90 witnesses.

The trial comes more than 25 years after questions were first raised about his competency, and five years after a government inquiry found he may have directly contributed to patient deaths because of an unacceptable level of care at the hospital.

Patel, 59, has not spoken publicly about the charges. He faces life in prison if convicted.

Wearing a dark suit, white shirt and patterned blue tie, Patel arrived to a media throng about 15 minute before the start of his trial with his wife, Kishoree, clutching his arm. Flanked by his defense team, he refused to answer questions from dozens of reporters.

Prosecutors say Patel repeatedly performed surgeries he'd been banned from undertaking in the United States, misdiagnosed patients and used sloppy, antiquated surgical techniques while working in Bundaberg, a sugar industry town 230 miles (370 kilometers) north of Brisbane in Queensland state. Some of the accusations against him include unnecessarily removing a patient's bowel and failing to stop internal bleeding in an elderly man who later died.

India tests new version of cruise missile

NEW DELHI (AP)—India successfully tested on Sunday a new, more maneuverable version of its BrahMos supersonic cruise missile that was jointly developed with Russia, an official said.

The missile was fired from a moving warship in the Bay of Bengal, off India's eastern coast, and successfully hit its target, said a defense research official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The missile had a vertical lift off from the ship and was then maneuvered to hit the target ship, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

"It was a perfect hit and a perfect mission," PTI quoted the head of the BrahMos project, A. Sivathanu Pillai, as saying.

Pillai said the test proved it was possible to change the direction of the missile at supersonic speeds before hitting the target.

The BrahMos missile, developed with Russia, can carry nuclear and conventional warheads weighing 620 to 660 pounds (280 to 300 kilograms) and has a maximum range of 180 miles (290 kilometers).

The missile can fly at 2.8 times the speed of sound and can be launched from land, ships, submarines and aircraft.

The standard version of the missile has already been tested more than a dozen times, but this was the first test of the new version.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thousands bid farewell to former Nepal PM Koirala

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Politicians, diplomats and thousands of supporters lined up for hours at a public stadium Sunday in Nepal's capital to pay respect to Girija Prasad Koirala, the former prime minister remembered for leading efforts to bring democracy to the Himalayan nation. Koirala died Saturday at age 86. His body was taken to the Nepali Congress party headquarters before it arrived at the stadium in Katmandu on a truck covered with flowers and the party's red and white flags. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal laid the national flag over the body. "His contributions and fight for democracy will always be remembered in history. He was the pillar in the battle against autocracy in Nepal," Nepal said.

Officials: US missiles kill 4 in NW Pakistan

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected U.S. drones fired missiles Sunday at a house and car in a militant-dominated tribal region near the Afghan border, killing at least four people, officials said. The attack occurred in the Datta Khel area of North Waziristan, two intelligence officials said. The drones fired three missiles, they added, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The identities of those killed were not known, though the region is dominated by the Taliban's Haqqani network, which is blamed for launching attacks across the border against American and NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Philippines hunts Indonesian training militants

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Indonesian officials have asked Philippine authorities to track down an Indonesian fugitive wanted in connection with several beheadings who is now helping to train militants in an insurgency-wracked Philippine region, security officials said Sunday. Sanusi, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, has been monitored in Mindanao's marshy heartland, two Philippine intelligence officials said. He fled to the region after being accused of ordering militants in 2007 to behead three people in the eastern Indonesian town of Poso, where Islamist militants had launched a series of bloody attacks on Christians and government workers. An Indonesian Embassy official said his government has asked Philippine authorities to capture Sanusi, who was spotted at a mosque near southern Cotabato city during the holy month of Ramadan last fall. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

World

Frustrations await Bush, Clinton visit to Haiti

AP

A girl walks at a homeless earthquake survivors camp during heavy rains in Port-au-Prince, Friday, March 19, 2010.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—One restored a Haitian president to power; the other flew him back out again. Former U.S. presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush are visiting Haiti on Monday, reminding the country of its tumultuous recent past just as frustration over an uneven earthquake relief effort is bringing politics back to the surface.

The ex-presidents are spearheading U.S. fundraising in response to the Jan. 12 earthquake. Tapped by President Barack Obama for the role, they are making the one-day visit to assess recovery needs.

Charged memories of their policies toward the impoverished Caribbean nation are already mixing with frustration over deplorable living conditions among the 1.3 million homeless quake survivors. Supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide have scheduled protests for Monday—demanding the return of their exiled leader and pleading for more aid.

"We are going to bring our message to the presidents, that our situation here is no good. The way people are living in Haiti is no way for anyone to live," said Fanfan Fenelon, a 30-year-old resident of the Bel Air slum.

Monday will be Bush's first trip to Haiti. Clinton, who is the U.N. special envoy to the country, has made two visits since the quake and five in the past two years. He also visited as president.

The pair will arrive in a country struggling to feed and shelter victims of the magnitude-7 quake, which killed an estimated 230,000 people. Hundreds of thousands still live in dangerous camps, some already flooding ahead of the April rainy season.

Pope does not mention rebuke to Irish bishops

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday urged Catholics to refrain from judging sinners a day after he rebuked Irish bishops for their handling of a half-century of sexual abuse of minors by clergy.

While the pope made no mention of the Vatican's widely criticized policy of cloaking abuse allegations in secrecy, a Swiss churchman called for the Holy See to start a registry of molester clergy to avoid more shuttling by bishops of pedophile priests from parish to parish.

The pontiff didn't mention his letter chastising Ireland's church hierarchy as he made his weekly appearance Sunday from his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square. He cited the Gospel passage about Jesus' inviting those without sin to cast the first stone toward an adulterer.

"While acknowledging her sin, he does not condemn her, but urges her to sin no more," Benedict told English-speaking pilgrims in the square. "Trusting in his great mercy toward us, we humbly beg his forgiveness for our own failings, and we ask for the strength to grow in his holiness."

Recount calls add to Iraq's political tension

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's president on Sunday demanded a recount in this month's historic parliamentary elections, intensifying the political conflict over the not-yet-completed tally and increasing the chances that the vote will be a long, chaotic test of the nascent democracy.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's coalition is narrowly trailing in the overall vote tally to one led by former prime minister Ayad Allawi, with 95 percent of the vote counted. President Jalal Talabani, whose own coalition is losing to Allawi's secular alliance in a key province, invoked the power of his office in calling for a recount.

On his official Web site, Talabani demanded that the Independent High Electoral Commission manually recount the ballots to "preclude any doubt and misunderstanding" about the results. He said he was making the demand "as the president of the state, authorized to preserve the constitution and to ensure justice and absolute transparency."

Al-Maliki on Saturday called on the election commission to quickly respond to requests from political blocs for a recount.

WORLD BRIEFS

US-Russian deal on nukes nearly completed

PARIS (AP)—Nearly a year after President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ordered negotiators to work on a new treaty to reduce their nuclear arsenals, the two countries say they are finally close to completing a deal. A deal—a small but important step toward Obama's goal of a nuclear arms-free world—could build momentum and trust toward resolving other key nuclear issues. They range from how to pressure Iran and North Korea to abandon their nuclear ambitions to reducing the number of tactical nuclear weapons that are so unpopular in Europe. It could also set a positive tone for a key conference on nuclear non-proliferation this spring. On another level, it could bolster Obama's credibility overseas, which has been battered by the disappointing Copenhagen climate change conference, ongoing economic miseries, faltering Middle East peace efforts and growing skepticism about last year's Prague speech in which he promised to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

Iceland fears 2nd, even larger volcanic eruption

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—A volcano in southern Iceland has erupted for the first time in almost 200 years, raising concerns that it could trigger a larger and potentially more dangerous eruption at a volatile volcano nearby. The eruption at the Eyjafjallajokull (AYA-feeyapla-yurkul) volcano, located near a glacier of the same name, shot ash and molten lava into the air but scientists called it mostly peaceful. It occurred just before midnight Saturday (2000 EDT, 8 p.m. EDT) at a fissure on a slope—rather than at the volcano's summit—so scientists said there was no imminent danger that the glacier would melt and flood the area. TV footage showed lava flowing along the fissure, and many flights were canceled due to the threat of airborne volcanic ash. After an aerial survey Sunday, scientists concluded the eruption struck near the glacier in an area that had no ice.

Overdrive

Honda Crossovers: Ducklings or swans?

THE WASHINGTON POST

Both the 2010 Honda Crosstour, above, and its upscale kin, the 2010 Acura ZDX are front-engine, mid-size crossovers largely based on the Accord sedan. They are motorized contradictions: sedans designed to do some of the work of wagons or sport-utility vehicles with the appearance and attitude of sports coupes.

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

DETROIT—They are strange conveyances—part beasts, part beauties, vehicles that in the process of becoming, from one perspective, became the wrong thing.

From another view, they are works of genius, blending function and design into a rendering of the modern American psyche—a mind-set that says you can become one in marriage and parenthood without losing your individual identity ... and that you can age without growing old.

In short, the 2010 Honda Accord Crosstour and its upscale kin, the 2010 Acura ZDX, are motorized contradictions. They are sedans designed to do some of the work of wagons or sport-utility vehicles with the appearance and attitude of sports coupes.

As such, the Honda Crosstour and Acura ZDX are among the latest crossover vehicles, a highly lucrative model segment created for adults trapped in the river of denial and the messiness of redefinition.

Honda's genius is that it has discovered how to exploit the many layers of the cross-purpose, crossover phenomenon, by slicing it into gender, income, age and life stage (young parents in need of a family hauler and golden-parachute empty nesters desirous of hauling, for instance).

Thus, we have the Honda Crosstour for the middle class, a purchase mostly expected to be influenced by women in those households. And we have the Acura ZDX, expected to be favored by well-employed single men, well-employed young couples without children, or those golden-parachute empty nesters.

I, my wife, Mary Anne, and Ria Manglapus, my Washington Post assistant for vehicle evaluations, developed these ideas on test drives in Virginia. Additional research here at the North American International Auto Show, where I interviewed Honda executives and show spectators about the Crosstour and ZDX, backed our theories.

Here's a puzzler:

The Acura ZDX has a starting price nearly $9,000 higher than that of the Honda Crosstour. Both bodies have Honda Accord breeding. Both look remarkably similar, although the ZDX looks more like a coupe. But it's not really a coupe.

Through clever design, the ZDX's rear side doors appear to be part of unbroken, coupe-like side panels—a subterfuge enhanced by the design of rear access handles that appear to be air vents.

Both men and women raved about the Acura ZDX—men much more so than women.

Middle-income men who pilloried the Crosstour joined their richer brethren in praising the ZDX—two vehicles separated not by much.

The Honda Crosstour comes with a standard 3.5-liter, 271-horsepower V-6 engine. The Acura ZDX comes with a 3.7-liter V-6 that delivers a maximum 300 horsepower. Crosstour specifications say it has a maximum 51.3 cubic feet of cargo space. The specifications for the ZDX claim 56.

But therein is a ruse, provable by transporting five bottoms 500 miles in both vehicles. The backs and butts in the Crosstour will be much more relaxed at the end of the trip, because the Crosstour affords more comfortable space for rear-seat occupants than what is available in the ZDX, which appears to be a chariot more designed for two, despite its claims of being able to seat five.

In the end, clearly, it doesn't matter. Kurt Antonius, public relations chief of American Honda, has long held that cars are so much more than the sum of their parts.

"In many ways, they are what people think of themselves," he said in an interview at the auto show. "We aren't saying the Crosstour and the ZDX will be mass-market sellers. But they will find their niche. There are people out there who think of themselves the way these two were designed."

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS

That horizontally split rear window has to go. "It blocks your rear vision," said my wife and fellow auto tester Mary Anne. "Dumb," said reviewer Brian Armstead. "Why would they do such a thing?" Ria asked.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

The Crosstour rides much like the Accord from which it comes — comfortable, reasonably pleasant on long drives. Acceleration and handling won't disappoint people who, say, normally drive Accord or Toyota Camry sedans. The ZDX's plush appointments turn a "pleasant" ride to spa-like coddling. Acceleration is excellent. Handling is good.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Never, ever discuss the styling of the Crosstour or ZDX at a gathering of friends you want to remain friendly.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

Both the Crosstour and ZDX are front-engine, mid-size crossovers largely based on the Accord sedan. They afford a bit more utility than sedans. The Crosstour can be had with front- or all-wheel -drive. The ZDX has all-wheel drive.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSIONS

In the Crosstour, you get a 3.5-liter, 24-valve V-6 that develops 271 horsepower at 6,200 revolutions per minute and 254 foot-pounds of torque at 5,000 rpm. The engine is linked to a five-speed automatic transmission. The Acura ZDX has a standard 3.7-liter, 24-valve V-6 that develops 300 hp horsepower at 6,300 rpm and 270 ft-lbs of torque at 4,500 rpm. It is linked to a six-speed auto-manual.

CAPACITIES

Both have seats for five people, but the interior configuration of the Crosstour allows for comfortable seating for four adults. And the ZDX really provides comfortable seating for only two adults on long drives.

Crosstour's specification sheet says it has a maximum 51.3 cubic feet of cargo space. The ZDX boasts 56 cubic feet, which is an exaggeration.

Fuel capacity in the Crosstour is 18.5 gallons of regular gasoline. ZDX fuel capacity is 21 gallons of required premium gasoline.

MILEAGE

In real-world testing, both vehicles averaged in the neighborhood of 17 mpg city and 24 highway.

SAFETY

Honda has excellent safety engineering for all of its vehicles. Side and head air bags, electronic traction and stability control, antilock brakes and four-wheel disc brakes are standard on both the Crosstour and ZDX.

PRICES

Base prices on the Honda Crosstour range from $29,670 to $36,220. Add a $710 transportation charge. Base prices on the Acura ZDX go from $45,495 to $56,045. The additional transportation charge is $810. Prices are sourced from Honda and Honda's Acura division.

UNDER THE HOOD

Small trailers can be useful, inexpensive

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I'm considering the purchase of a small trailer to tow behind my Honda Element for recreational (two small kayaks and maybe an ATV) and occasional landscaping and home construction projects. Could you please shine some light on what I should look for regarding the trailer and hitch? I'd like to keep the trailer as portable as possible, stacking it during storage. Is this reasonable? How large a hitch, can I install it myself? Are the lights difficult to hook up, and what about brakes?—Jack Albanese

ANSWER: This will be a fun and useful project. Many years back I purchased a similar trailer (a 4'x8' Haulin trailer from Costco for about $300) and have found it to be incredibly useful and a sturdy workhorse.

Some small utility trailers may be portable enough to stack against a fence, but are a bit flimsy upon close inspection —I'd avoid the folding variety. These under-$300 utility trailers typically run tiny but surprisingly capable 8" tires/wheels and have a weight capacity of up to 1000 pounds. They begin as an assemble-it-yourself kit (easy and truly fun to put together) and you'd finish it with a sheet of plywood decking and perhaps some side rails.

The next step is a sturdier $300-500 trailer with 12" wheels and perhaps a 1200-pound to 1500 pound rating. This would be more difficult to stack against a fence or wall (about 300 pounds) but would likely provide a wider range of utilization, a greater margin of operating safety and more durable long-term performance. Good sources for comparing features of each of these trailers are www.harborfreight.com and www.northerntool.com. A sturdier, pre-assembled or commercial-grade trailer from a local trailer retailer is an additional option.

Trailer brake rules vary widely from state to state, but in most cases, brakes aren't required for a trailer this size — less than 1500 lb. gross vehicle weight, or trailer plus cargo weight. You'll also be within the rated towing capacity of your Element, which is 1500 lb. I'd opt for a Class I hitch — up to 2000 lb. GVW, 200 lb. tongue weight. It's considerably more compact and attractive than the beefier Class II or Class III hitches used on larger tow vehicles.

One can purchase an application-specific, bolt-on hitch (some drilling may be required) in either of these categories for less than $200 and a plug-and-play wiring harness kit for about $50. Take a look at www.hitchesforless.com for hitch and light hookup ideas. You can also purchase a standard flat-4 connector and wire it in yourself, after identifying the appropriate circuits. Installing a hitch is fairly easy— try to find one that doesn't require drilling holes in the Element.

When using your trailer, load it so at least 10 percent of its total weight is carried by the hitch. This means placing large items slightly ahead of the axle, and securely tying them down. If the trailer's tongue weight is less than this, it has a greater chance of swaying.

Even though brakes may not be required on a smaller trailer, one must continually keep in mind the effects the trailer may have on vehicle stability during braking. Keep an eye also on tire inflation pressure and periodic wheel-bearing maintenance. The smaller 8" tires require high pressure, perhaps 75 lb., to do their job and spin at high speed due to their small diameter.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Island Snapshots

JEMILYN ARRIOLA

WINNING GROUP

Members of the Marianas High School Chamorro Club pose for a group picture after participating in the 2010 Chamorro Language Competition hosted by the University of Guam. The group placed first in Poem, second places in Speech, Group Song & Dance, and Skit/ Dramatic Performance, and third places in Male and Female Singing.

JOHN HABIJAN

Chamorro Club Members present Marianas High School principal Karen Borja with the trophies the group won after participating in the 2010 Chamorro Language Competition in Guam, held March 9, 2010. The vent was hosted by the University of Guam.

BIRHTDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday Joseph Layan! Best wishes and may God continue to bless you dearly! We love you very much! Love: family and friends, especially Cile and Tompe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
322-6537/8 (Voice) 322-6449 (TTY) 322-6536 Fax
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 website: www.ovrgov.net

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), will be conducting statewide public forums for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). You must come!

ROTA
March 23, 2010
Bay View Hotel - Lanai
5:30-7:30pm

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Magin Iginoef at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be obtained and accessed at www.ovrgov.net and at Navy Hill Bldg N2.

Publication of this notice is paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA Grant #H126A050078 of the United States Department of Education. (OSERS)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to, from left, Darlene Aldan, Junie Aldan, Lee Pangelinan, Claire Dela Cruz, and Vic Cabrera (standing) for receiving your master's degree in International Teaching from Framington State College. Greetings come from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to our precious Clarissa Delos Reyes Mendiola Dela Cruz, for achieving your master's degree in International Teaching from Framington State College in Framington, MA. We are very proud of you. We love you and may the Lord bless you as you continue your journey to many more success. Loving you always, Mom, Dad, Ike and your babies Igneisha, and Auztyn Jessie (A.J.).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to, from left, Lee Pangelinan, Josie Kaipat, and Claire Dela Cruz for obtaining your master's degree from Framington State College in Framington, MA.

Life & Style

Cannes-winning Filipino director goes for the emotion in new film

HONG KONG (AP)—Philippine director Brillante Mendoza says he hopes his new movie about two grandmothers will resonate with a broader audience than his dark Cannes-winning crime thriller "Kinatay."

Mendoza

His best director win at the Cannes Film Festival last year earned him fame and a cash prize from the Philippine president, but Mendoza's works are still only shown outside of the commercial film circuit in his home country at informal screenings at schools and universities. His new project, "Lola," is no different, but the independent filmmaker hopes it will touch more people.

"'Lola' is more emotional, so it's more audience-friendly compared to 'Kinatay,'" Mendoza told reporters Sunday on the sidelines of the 34th Hong Kong International Film Festival, where "Lola" is a contender for the 4th Asian Film Awards.

"I think audiences will feel more toward the two grandmothers," he said.

Inspired by real-life stories, "Lola"—Tagalog for "grandmother"—follows grandparents whose grandchildren are on opposite sides of one crime—a mobile phone robbery-turned-murder. One tries to raise money to bail the perpetrator; the other seeks funds to bury the victim.

The director said while he wants to reach a wider viewership in the Philippines, his current following has a better understanding of the social criticism in his work.

"I don't really mind showing my films in universities and colleges and schools because there you have the audience, the right audience. You can talk to the right audience that appreciates the kind of films you're showing, compared to when you show your films at a commercial theater like in the mall, where people just go there to be entertained," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said he will next make an action drama, also set in the Philippines.

Rome to display ancient Greek silverware

ROME (AP)—A collection of ancient Greek silverware dating to the third century B.C. is going on display in Rome after being returned by the Metropolitan Museum in New York, officials said Friday.

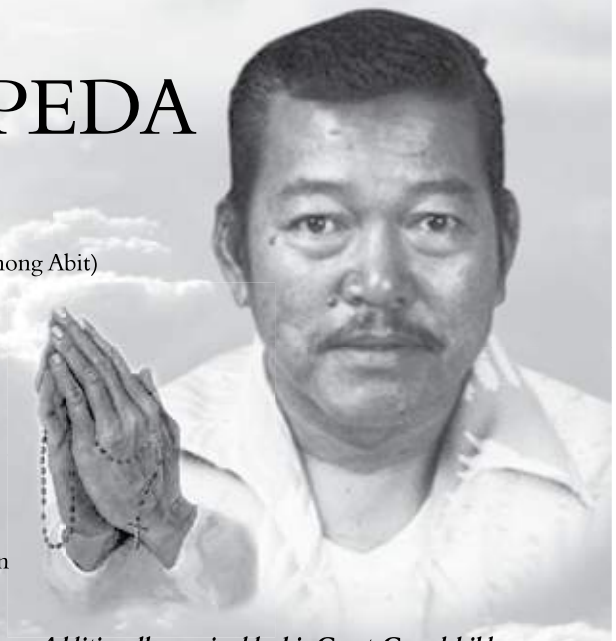
The 16 pieces of silverware with gold detail were returned as part of Italy's aggressive campaign against illegal trafficking in antiquities. They include two large bowls, a cup with two handles, plates and drinking utensils.

See ROME on Page 20

In Celebration of His New Life

FELIX AGULTO CEPEDA

Better Known as "Eli"
November 12, 1941 – March 16, 2010



Predeceased by:
Father: †Jose Iglecias Cepeda
Mother: †Consolacion Concepcion Agulto Santos (Chong Abit)
Stepfather: †Albert Torres Santos
Brother: †Antonio Agulto Cepeda
Sister: †Maria Agulto Cepeda
Reared Father: †Joaquin Duenas Cepeda (Kindu Tona)
Reared Brother: †Ignacio Babauta Cepeda

Survived by:
Wife: Doris Evarrola Cepeda
Children: Alvin C. / Connie Cepeda and children
Jennifer C. / Francisco Faisao and children
Felix C. / Andrea Cepeda and children
Mario C. & Janelle Cepeda
Jennelyn C. / Sherman Camacho and children
Jason C. / Alice Cepeda and children
Monique E. Cepeda & Simeon Camacho
Desiree E. Cepeda
Yuri E. Cepeda
Sister: Ramona A. Santos
Brother In-Law: William (Bill) G. Evarrola
Reared Mother: Paulina Babauta Cepeda
Reared Brothers & Sisters: Felix B. & Linda V. Cepeda
Anthony B. Cepeda
Juan B. & Paticia V. Cepeda
Lulu C. & George Sutherland
Thomas B. Cepeda
Akit C. & Carlos C. Camacho
Ramon B. & Lourdes A. Cepeda
Jose B. & Cora S. Cepeda
Lisa C. & Juan Q. Camacho
Ramona C. & Fritz R. Lizama
1st Wife: Bernadita R. Cabrera

Additionally survived by his Great-Grandchildren, numerous Nieces and Nephews, Cousins, Aunties, Uncles, Brothers and Sister In-Laws.

Daily Mass of intention is being said nightly at 6:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church in Koblerville, followed immediately by nightly rosary.

On March 24, 2010. His body will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC) at 7:30 a.m. to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. and interment service will follow immediately at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of

†Monica Cruz Lizama

"Kokang"

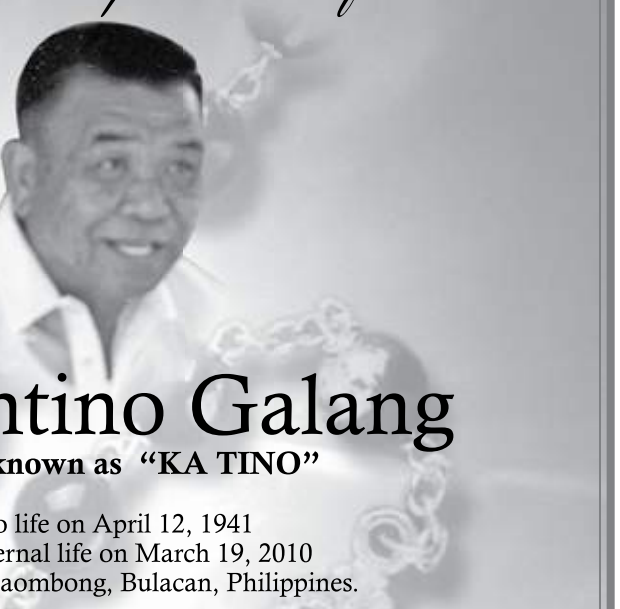
We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Nigtly Rosary will begin on March 24, 2010 at the family residence in Oleai Village, at 7:30 pm and daily Mass will be offered every morning at 6:00 am at San Jose Church. On the last day April 01, 2010, rosary will be said at 12:00 noon at the Family Residence.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers is greatly appreciated.
Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow

Joaquin C. Lizama and Children

In Celebration of his new life



Constantino Galang

Lovingly known as "KA TINO"

Born to life on April 12, 1941
Called to eternal life on March 19, 2010
in his home in Paombong, Bulacan, Philippines.

In his new life, he now joins and is greeted at the gates of Heaven by:
First Wife: Dominga Galang

His memories will forever remain in the hearts of:
His Wife: Josefina Galang
Daughters: Florencia G. Burke & Anna Galang
Sons: Romeo Galang, Alberto Galang & Custyn Jay Galang
Sister: Marina Galang
Son and Daughter -in-laws: Howie Burke, Elsie Galang & Analyn Galang
Grand Children: Randall, Issa, Alwin & Angeline

He will be deeply missed by numerous relatives and friends.

Funeral service will be held on March 26, 2010
in Paombong, Bulacan, Philippines.

Nightly rosary is being said by family and friends on Saipan at 6:00 pm at Landscaper/Food Merchant compound in As Lito, Saipan.

Your thoughts, presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Maraming Salamat
From The Family

Weisz, Rylance win acting prizes at Olivier awards

LONDON (AP)—Rachel Weisz added a stage accolade to Hollywood stardom Sunday, winning the best-actress prize at London's Laurence Olivier theater awards for her role in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

The prize for a Londoner made good in the U.S. was fitting on a night that rewarded several Broadway-bound productions, including "Enron," "Red" and "The Mountaintop," a play about Martin Luther King by 28-year-old American writer Katori Hall.

Rock musical "Spring Awakening"—which traveled the opposite direction, from New York to London—took four prizes, including best new musical.

Weisz won for playing faded belle Blanche Dubois in the Donmar Warehouse production of Tennessee Williams' steamy southern drama. Ruth Wilson, Stella in the same play, was named best supporting actress.

Weisz said it had been a delight to return to the theater after an eight-year absence.

"I think it's the greatest feeling in the world, being on stage," she said. "The adrenaline you get from it ... I think it's very good for you as an actor."

Mark Rylance was named best actor for playing charismatic rebel Johnny "Rooster" Byron in Jez Butterworth's riotous rural drama "Jerusalem." He beat contenders including Jude Law, for an acclaimed "Hamlet."

"Somebody asked me what it's like to be up against Jude Law," Rylance said. "I don't know what that experience is like. I'm sure it's very nice."

Hall was the surprise winner in the best play category for "The Mountaintop," a drama about civil rights leader King set on the night before his assassination.

AP

British actress Rachel Weisz arrives for the Laurence Olivier Awards 2010, at an hotel in central London, Sunday, March 21, 2010.

The play opened in London at the 65-seat Theatre503 last year before transferring to the West End. It is scheduled to open on Broadway in the fall.

Hall is only the fourth woman, and the first black woman, to win the best new play prize in the Oliviers' 34-year history. She attributed her success to King's status as a "universal hero."

"I thought that because it was an American story about an American hero, no one would want to hear it over here," Hall said. "But I was proved wrong."

"The Mountaintop" beat the heavily favored "Jerusalem" and Lucy Prebble's "Enron," an entertaining account of the Texas energy giant's fall.

Rupert Goold was named best director for "Enron," which opens at New York's Broadhurst Theatre next month.

The best supporting actor prize went to Eddie Redmayne for "Red," John Logan's play about artist Mark Rothko, another Donmar production that is currently running at New York's Golden Theater.

The Olivier awards, Britain's equivalent of Broadway's Tonys, honor achievements in London theater, musicals, dance and opera. Winners are chosen by a panel of stage professionals and members of the public.

Michael Wynne's "The Priory"—about a group of middle-class friends having a New Year meltdown at a country lodge—was named best new comedy. The trans-Atlantic traffic continued with Debbie Allen's all-black production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," with a cast led by James Earl Jones and Phylicia Rashad, winning the prize for best revival. The show ran on Broadway in 2008.

Broadway import "Wicked" won the audience prize for most popular play, the only award decided by public vote. "Spring Awakening" led the musical categories, with four prizes. Aneurin Barnard and Iwan Rheon were named best actor and supporting actor in a musical for the show, a rock adaptation of Frank Wedekind's risque drama of youthful sexuality.

A production of "Hello Dolly!" at the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park won three prizes—musical revival, choreography and best actress in a musical, for Samantha Spiro.

WINNERS LIST

LONDON (AP)—Winners of the 2010 Laurence Olivier Awards, honoring achievement in theater, opera and dance in Britain:
New Play: "The Mountaintop"
New Comedy: "The Priory"
New Musical: "Spring Awakening"
Entertainment: "Morecambe"
Revival: "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"
Musical Revival: "Hello Dolly!"
Actress-Play: Rachel Weisz, "A Streetcar Named Desire"
Actor-Play: Mark Rylance, "Jerusalem"
Actress-Musical: Samantha Spiro, "Hello Dolly!"
Actor-Musical: Aneurin Barnard, "Spring Awakening"
Supporting Actress-Play: Ruth Wilson, "A Streetcar Named Desire"
Supporting Actor-Play: Eddie Redmayne, "Red"
Supporting Performer-Musical: Iwan Rheon, "Spring Awakening"
Director: Rupert Goold, "Enron"
Theater Choreography: Stephen Mear, "Hello Dolly!"
New Opera Production: "Tristan und Isolde," Royal Opera
Outstanding Achievement in Opera: Nina Stemme for "Tristan und Isolde"
Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theater: "Cock"
New Dance Production: "Goldberg"
Outstanding Achievement in Dance: Rambert Dance Company
Set Design: "Jerusalem"
Lighting Design: "Burnt by the Sun"
Sound Design: "Spring Awakening"
Costume Design: "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert—The Musical"
Audience Award for Most Popular Show: "Wicked"
Outstanding Achievement Award: Michael Codron
Special Award: Maggie Smith

'Alice' still reigns with $34.5M haul

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alice remains the queen of the box office.

Johnny Depp and Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland" took in $34.5 million to remain the No. 1 movie for a third-straight weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Disney release raised its domestic haul to $265.8 million and its worldwide total to $565.8 million after just three weekends in theaters, a huge result for a film playing in the typically slow month of March.

"You rarely see this kind of domination by one movie at this time of year," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "Normally at this time of year, films don't make this kind of money, and they don't hold in this long."

"Alice in Wonderland" easily beat a rush of new movies led by 20th Century Fox's family film "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," which opened at No. 2 with $21.8 million. The movie is adapted from Jeff Kinney's cartoon novel about a sixth grader maneuvering through the intricate social structure at his middle school, which includes its own "cooties" game known as the "cheese touch."

1. "**Alice in Wonderland,**" $34.5 million.
2. "**Diary of a Wimpy Kid**," $21.8 million.
3. "**The Bounty Hunter,**" $21 million.
4. "**Repo Men**," $6.2 million.
5. "**She's Out of My League**," $6 million.
6. "**Green Zone**," $5.96 million.
7. "**Shutter Island**," $4.8 million.
8. "**Avatar,**" $4 million.
9. "**Our Family Wedding**," $3.8 million.
10. "**Remember Me**," $3.3 million.

"I think cheese touch equals magic touch at the box office," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution at 20th Century Fox.

Debuting at No. 3 was Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler's action comedy "The Bounty Hunter" with $21 million. Released by Sony, the movie follows a bounty hunter chasing his ex-wife, a reporter with an arrest warrant over her head after she misses a court date while pursuing a story.

"We had figured an estimate in the high teens, so 20-plus million is a good number for us," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony.

Jude Law and Forest Whitaker's action thriller "Repo Men" flopped with a No. 4 opening of $6.2 million. The Universal release features Law as a repo man on the run in a future where organs are bloodily repossessed if patients miss their payments.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

ROME

From Page 19

Italian art officials said the pieces form one of the most important Hellenistic silverware collections to have survived from Sicily. The pieces are known as "The Morgantina Treasure" after the name of the ancient Greek settlement where they were excavated, near what is now the Italian city of Aidone.

Angelo Bottini, the archaeology superintendent in Rome, said the objects were likely crafted by different artists and served different functions. Some, like the large bowls with mask-shaped feet, were likely used to mix wine with water during meals; others, like the plates, were likely used during ceremonies, officials said.

The pieces came back as part of a deal with the Met that also led to the return of the Euphronios Krater, a 6th-century B.C. painted vase that is widely regarded as one of the finest examples of its kind.

They will go on display at the Museo Nazionale Romano in the Italian capital from Saturday through May 23. The show then moves to Sicily.

Italy has been aggressively campaigned to recover antiquities it says were looted from the country and sold to museums worldwide. It has secured the return of dozens of Roman, Greek and Etruscan artifacts in deals with museums including the Met and California's J. Paul Getty Museum.

In exchange, Italian art officials have agreed to give long-term loans of equally significant treasures.

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Repo Men
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:45
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:20 9:45
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Jude Law, Forest Whitaker
Science Fiction • Rated R
Synopsis
Writers Eric Garcia and Garrett Lerner team with director Miguel Sapochnik to adapt Garcia's novel about a repo man named Remy whose body has been constructed almost entirely of artificial organs. When Remy (Jude Law) fails to keep up on payments for his recent heart transplant, his former partner vows to take back the organ by force if necessary. Meanwhile, Remy finds an unexpected ally in the form of his long-lost wife, Beth (Sonia Braga), who has also been retrofitted with numerous artificial organs.

Diary of Wimpy Kid
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Zachary Gordon, Steven Zahn
Children's, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Hotel for Dogs' director Thor Freudenthal helms the adaptation of Jeff Kinney's acclaimed Diary of a Wimpy Kid comics with this Fox 2000 production. Zachary Gordon starring as the titular character, with Steve Zahn, Rachael Harris, Robert Capron, and Devon Bostick filling out the rest of the cast.

The Green Zone
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:25 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear
Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
United 93 director Paul Greengrass explores the aftermath of the Iraq invasion in this feature adaptation of author Rajiv Chandrasekaran's literary exposé of the same name. A one-time Baghdad bureau chief of the Washington Post, Chandrasekaran was present as American forces attempted to set up a provisional government on the grounds surrounding former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's opulent palace. The resulting governing body, according to critics, existed in a bubble so far removed from the grim realities of the Iraq War that it failed to properly assess the needs of the people.

Remember Me
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Robert Pattinson, Emilie de Ravin
Drama • Rated PG 13

She's Out Of My League
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve
Comedy • Rated R

Alice in Wonderland
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway
Fantasy • Rated PG

Dear John
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
Drama • Rated PG 13

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PETA feathers ruffled by Mike Tyson NY pigeon show

NEW YORK (AP)—An animal welfare group wants New York City prosecutors to investigate Mike Tyson's reality television show about pigeon racing.

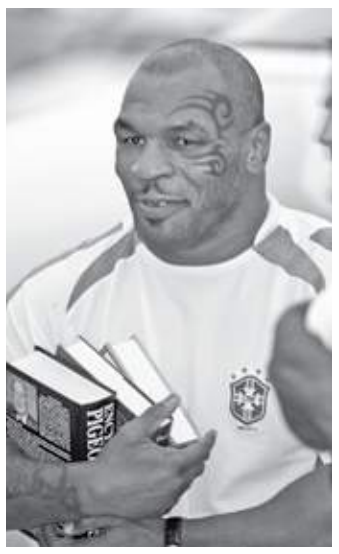
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals says the Brooklyn-based show is cruel to animals and its races could involve illegal gambling.

The show will follow Tyson as he competes in pigeon races. The former world heavyweight champion has raised pigeons all his life but is a racing rookie.

The show airs next year on Animal Planet. A spokeswoman says there have never been plans for wagering on the races. She says the pigeons will be "cherished and respected by their owners," including Tyson.

PETA sent a letter dated March 18 to the Brooklyn district attorney's office requesting an investigation.

District attorney spokesman Jonah Bruno says the office is looking into the allegations.



In this July 25, 2004 file photo, former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, carrying books about pigeons, walks to awaiting reporters upon his arrival at Louisville International Airport in Louisville, Ky. AP

Mom of octuplets may lose home to foreclosure

LA HABRA, California (AP)—Octuplets mom Nadya Suleman could be kicked out of her Southern California home.

Mortgage holder Amer Haddadin says he is starting foreclosure proceedings on the $565,000 La Habra residence because the family hasn't kept up the payments.

His friend and adviser, Ramsey Masso, said Friday that Haddadin signed over the home to Suleman's father last year.

Ed Suleman, who leased the home to his daughter, was supposed to pay about $4,000 a month and a final balloon payment of $450,000 that was due earlier this month.

Masso says the family was late on recent payments and also missed the balloon payment.

Calls to the Suleman's attorney, Jeff Czech, weren't immediately returned.

Vienna makes first woman concertmaster permanent

VIENNA (AP)—The Vienna Philharmonic has permanently appointed its first woman concertmaster.

Albena Danailova has been acting concertmaster since September 2008—the first woman ever in that position with the orchestra. The world famous ensemble announced Saturday that she was now permanently appointed to that position after passing probation.

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra was an all-male ensemble for most of its 160 years. The first women joined in the 1980s.

The concertmaster—the head of the first violin section—is considered the most important orchestra member after the conductor.

Tang premieres new film after reported China ban

HONG KONG (AP)—Chinese actress Tang Wei returned to the red carpet on Sunday, promoting her first movie since the 2007 Ang Lee spy thriller "Lust, Caution," a politically sensitive production that reportedly prompted officials to ban her in her home country.

Lee catapulted the then-unknown Tang to stardom by casting her as a student activist who seduces a Japanese-allied Chinese intelligence chief in World War II-era Shanghai to pave way for his assassination, only to fall in love with the traitor.

With many Chinese still incensed by Japanese atrocities during the war, government censors asked Lee to edit the film to be more politically acceptable. The Oscar-winning Taiwanese filmmaker changed a line of dialogue at the end of the movie so it was more ambiguous if Tang's character gave away the assassination plot. He also toned down explicit sex scenes.

But even though the edited version of the movie was cleared for release, Chinese officials still wanted to punish Tang, ordering TV stations to pull ads featuring the actress and to stop covering her, according to news reports.

The actress did not act again until "Crossing Hennessy," a Hong Kong-set romance that held its world premiere on Sunday, kicking off the 34th Hong Kong International Film Festival. The Ivy Ho movie has been cleared for release in China.

"Coming to Hong Kong for this premiere, I can see (director) Ivy and (co-star) Andy On again. I've been very happy. Now I'm just excited to see the movie," Tang told reporters.

"I will be happy if everyone can see my work," she said.

AP

Chinese actress Tang Wei poses during a red carpet session at the opening of the Hong Kong International Film Festival in Hong Kong Sunday, March 21, 2010.

Another co-star, veteran Hong Kong actress Paw Hee-ching, said she was delighted to see Tang's comeback.

"Everyone knows that Tang Wei is an actress of international stature, but she hasn't been able to make any movies in the past few years. For her to see the light of day again with this movie, I'm really happy for her," Paw said.

In "Crossing Hennessy," Tang plays a shopkeeper who's set up with the owner of an electric appliance store, played by Hong Kong pop legend Jacky Cheung.

The Chinese actress has also been shooting "Late Autumn," an English-language remake of the 1966 South Korean film by the same name, directed by Kim Tae-yong and costarring Hyun Bin.

The Hong Kong festival, which runs until April 6, will screen 298 movies from more than 50 countries, including 24 world premieres.

SKorea appeals to France over looted royal books

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The South Korean president appealed to France's foreign minister for a resolution to a dispute involving scores of silk-bound, engraved books French troops looted from the royal library of the dynasty that ruled Korea for centuries.

The raid on the library on an island off Korea's west coast in 1866 was retaliation for the execution of a French priest. Soldiers seized some 350 manuscripts and set fire to 5,000 more before retreating, and the French National Library in Paris now has custody of nearly 300 of the books.

Only one of the manuscripts has been brought back to South Korea—in 1993 on a permanent loan.

The books detail court protocol for royal ceremonies and rites, and carry engravings that historians say could reveal much about the history, art and handicraft of the Joseon Dynasty, which ruled Korea from 1392 to 1910.

"The issue of the royal texts is of big interest to the South Korean public," President Lee Myung-bak told visiting Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, according to a presidential spokeswoman.

France's top diplomat promised "every possible cooperation," Kim Eun-hye, the spokeswoman, said.

Over dinner, Kouchner and his South Korean counterpart, Yu Myung-hwan, discussed the matter further, pledging to find a solution on the fate of the royal texts, South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade spokesman Kim Young-sun said.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy's special envoy on North Korea, Jack Lang, says he is pushing for the return of all the manuscripts.

Inquisitive school secretary is playing by the rules

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a high school secretary, and I'm writing about your reply to "Sick of It in Iowa" (Jan. 28), who is upset at the school secretaries for questioning or commenting on her frequent absences. You were right that her medical history is of no concern to the secretary, but her attendance record is very much the business of the secretary.

The principal makes the decision regarding when a student is required to bring a doctor's note with every absence. This procedure is called Persistent Absence, and it means someone has been out of school at least 25 days that school year, or has developed a pattern with his or her absences.

School rules are governed by the state. You would be surprised how many parents receive citations and must go to court because of their student's poor attendance. When a student has a chronic illness, backed by a physician's statement, the school will bend over backward to work with them, ensuring they receive the best possible education available.

It's not that I don't empathize with that young lady, but part of an education is teaching students that in the real world, they have a responsibility to maintain a good attendance record that will precede them into college, the work force and life itself.

DIANE S., SPRING CITY, PA.

DEAR DIANE S.: Thank you for straightening me out. It appears from the mail I have received from educators and school administrative staff that my answer left something to be desired. Mea culpa. For the benefit of parents and students who may not be aware, I'll share a few more. Read on:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: For your information, many times school secretaries are charged with the unpleasant task of having to contact the truant officer, children's services and others in law enforcement if a child doesn't come to school and can't provide a valid doctor's excuse. The principal and superintendent do these jobs, but it is up to US to track these kids and make sure they attend school as they are supposed to do.

BOTHERED IN MUNCIE, IND.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a school secretary. We are required by law to ask for a doctor's note when a student has accumulated more than five absences due to illness. When a student arrives at school more than 30 minutes late, or leaves more than 30 minutes early (three or more times), that student is considered truant.

With today's economic mess we need to know why a student is not in school. In California, schools lose more than $30 a day when a student is not in his or her seat, and that money adds up. So, yes, Abby, it IS "our business" to know a student's medical history.

VICTORIA IN CALIFORNIA

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Sick of It" and her mother should speak to the school social worker. She may qualify for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including an individualized education plan that could cover services such as in-home schooling, extended time on assignments and the ability to leave school with little or no warning. This is called a 504 Plan.

KATHRYN IN NEWARK, DEL.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The girl with frequent illness said she plays the clarinet. Has anyone suggested to her that her clarinet could be the culprit? As a band director for more than 30 years, one of the first lessons I go over with beginning or continuing students is to throw away reeds that were used prior to any illness and clean the mouthpiece thoroughly.

SARAH JANE IN SEVERNA PARK, MD.

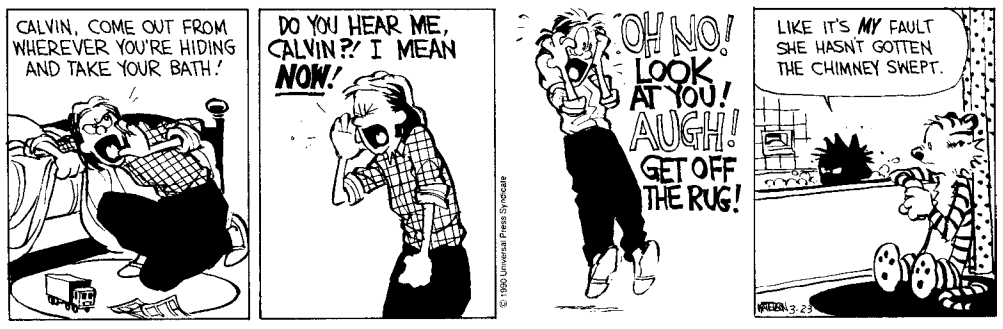
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, COME OUT FROM WHEREVER YOU'RE HIDING AND TAKE YOUR BATH!
DO YOU HEAR ME, CALVIN?! I MEAN NOW!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
OH NO! LOOK AT YOU! AUGH! GET OFF THE RUG!
LIKE IT'S MY FAULT SHE HASN'T GOTTEN THE CHIMNEY SWEPT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

OOM BAH BAH OOM BAH BAH
OOM BAH BAH REE BOP!
I WAS EXPECTING TO BE BARKED AT
CAN'T I, JUST ONCE, TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT?!
I PREFER THE CLASSICS
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

GREAT PICK FOR OUR SPRING BREAK ADVENTURE, CLAYTON!
I LOVE THE ZOO!
OH. MY. GOODNESS.
WHAT?
ONE CRACK ABOUT MY PARENTS AND YOU'LL BE IN THE DOGHOUSE.
MONKEY HOUSE
© 2010 Universal Uclick

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SORRY, I CAN'T TAKE THIS CREDIT CARD. IT'S NOT SIGNED ON THE BACK.
OKAY. I'LL SIGN IT.
YOU CAN'T SIGN IT RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF ME!
DO YOU WANT TO CLOSE YOUR EYES?
I'LL HUM TOO.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Hook point
5 Conclude
8 Data, for short
12 Concept
13 Hawaiian garland
14 Harvest
15 Favorable spots for viewing
17 Slime
18 Bart, to Homer
19 Put in cans
21 Wan
24 Mata —
25 Urban disturbance
26 Melodic jewelry holder
30 Carte lead-in
31 Kinds
32 Gorilla
33 Sports page grid
35 Small songbird
36 Oodles
37 Gladiatorial venue
38 Actress Hedy
41 Palindromic Turkish title
42 Addict
43 TV, slangily
48 Squad
49 Turf
50 Sharpen
51 Wild and crazy
52 Ram's mate
53 Raced

DOWN
1 Tucker's partner
2 Commotion
3 Tyrannosaurus —
4 Hound type
5 Verve
6 Badminton barrier
7 Aversion
8 Kind of funny
9 Night light?
10 Disconcert
11 Newspaper page
16 A billion years
20 Rainbow
21 Bedouin
22 Missile shelter
23 Welles' "War of the Worlds," e.g.
24 "Step on it!"
26 Twilight occurrence
27 Naked
28 Tournament format
29 TV's "Warrior Princess"
31 Wound reminder
34 Smugly ingratiating
35 Angers
37 Past
38 Figure skating jump
39 On the briny
40 Intend
41 Staffer
44 Part of DJIA
45 Jazzy style
46 Inseparable
47 Crossed (out)

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	F	F	■	P	A	T	H	E	■	S	P	Y	
P	A	L	■	I	B	S	E	N	■	Q	U	A	
S	Q	U	A	N	D	E	R	S	■	U	M	P	
■	■	■	R	I	O	■	B	I	C	E	P	S	
C	U	S	T	O	M	■	S	L	O	E	■	■	
E	S	Q	■	N	E	W	■	E	A	G	L	E	
D	E	U	S	■	N	O	T	■	T	E	E	M	
I	D	I	O	M	■	W	E	B	■	E	A	U	
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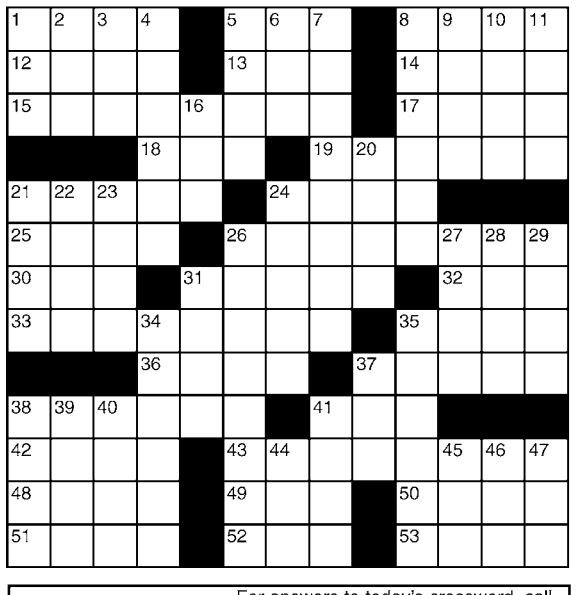
W	A	G	O	N	S	■	H	U	P	■	■	■	
I	L	L	■	S	Q	U	I	R	R	E	L	S	
D	U	E	■	C	U	R	E	R	■	L	A	P	
E	M	S	■	H	E	N	R	Y	■	M	B	A	

Yesterday's answer 3-23



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keri Russell, 34; Richard Grieco, 45; Teresa Ganzel, 53; Chaka Khan, 57

Happy Birthday: Family matters may take away from your plans and progress. Your concern and dedication to a cause will not go unnoticed. You may feel as if you are giving and not getting but, in the end, you will be rewarded handsomely. Don't let anyone stand between you and what matters to you. Your bravery and ability to act fast will lead to victory. Your numbers are 2, 10, 19, 26, 29, 37, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Emotional frustration will make it difficult for you to concentrate. Think about what you want to see happen and be concise in your presentation. Your willingness to work hard and take action will impress. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't give anyone a chance to challenge you or complain. Do what needs to be done without being asked and you will avoid a disgruntled individual looking for a fight. The more compromising and agreeable you are, the better your chance of getting what you want. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let your personal interests and emotions interfere when dealing with investments. Be shrewd if you want to get ahead economically. Your main concerns should be your health, welfare and getting what you want for your money. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have to talk to the one you love. Voice your complaints instead of letting your hostility grow. Don't let your personal feelings influence a professional decision. Focus on what you can do and be willing to try something new. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A romantic encounter will leave you uncertain about your current status. Share your emotions and focus on the here and now. Happiness is dependent on doing what works best for everyone involved. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Be cautious about being too demanding or pushy with the older and younger people you interact with. Help whoever you deal with accomplish and give praise when deserved. Offer patience and a positive response. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll pay for your mistakes if you aren't upfront with your personal or professional partners. Now is not the time to hold back or be secretive. Someone you meet will share your opinions and intrigue you intellectually. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Get involved in challenging activities that bring you in contact with people you find motivating and inspiring. A positive change is heading your way. Prepare to make a lifestyle change. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may as well relax and enjoy yourself. Projects started now will be hard to get off the ground and will lead nowhere. Spend time with the ones you love and your time won't be wasted. Don't let unexpected change lead to overspending, overreacting or overindulging. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your emotions will be up and down and hard to control. You'll be inclined to stretch the truth or put blame on other people. Make some changes at home, but be sure you aren't going to create problems for the people you live with. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can make a difference if you're willing to do something nice for someone in need. A job opportunity is apparent if you are willing to put in the time and work required to establish your talents and the service you can offer. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Spend some time with family and close friends. A physical activity will help you realize what you can do in the future to stay fit and relieve stress. Uncertainty regarding a relationship will cause emotional upset if you don't face it head on. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, determined, strong-willed and aggressive. You care about home and family but do not do well with authority figures.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3		4			
		3	6		9	4		
		7		1		6		
4			1		5			2
5								1
3			8		6			9
		2		6		9		
		8	9		7	5		
			5		3			

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	8	4	1	5	2	3	6	9
9	6	5	3	7	8	4	2	1
2	1	3	6	9	4	8	7	5
1	3	7	5	2	6	9	8	4
5	4	9	8	1	7	6	3	2
8	2	6	9	4	3	1	5	7
6	5	1	7	8	9	2	4	3
4	9	8	2	3	5	7	1	6
3	7	2	4	6	1	5	9	8

Difficulty Level ★ 3/22

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MESH NETTING **Solution: 7 letters**

T	R	C	D	I	A	G	O	N	A	L	O	O	S	E
H	N	E	A	L	H	D	U	F	T	W	I	S	T	N
C	I	E	I	P	U	C	A	A	Ⓓ	A	L	A	E	R
T	O	N	M	R	T	B	T	E	Ⓡ	T	U	E	S	A
I	K	V	A	E	R	U	V	A	Ⓞ	D	R	T	T	Y
T	S	B	E	I	L	A	R	E	Ⓒ	C	O	S	E	J
S	L	P	C	R	E	G	B	E	S	P	T	N	O	N
E	O	E	O	W	T	E	N	N	I	S	I	I	S	I
R	H	S	P	R	E	A	D	A	D	W	N	S	T	F
U	Y	C	A	A	T	B	T	N	T	E	K	G	R	I
T	E	S	T	S	C	S	B	R	I	N	S	N	O	S
C	K	V	T	E	S	S	E	I	A	A	E	I	N	H
N	C	S	E	O	R	T	E	N	N	P	R	R	G	I
U	O	C	R	I	N	T	E	T	I	G	H	T	E	N
P	H	C	N	I	L	K	S	H	O	L	E	S	S	G

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Barrier, Capture, Catch, Cord, Cover, Cross, Design, Diagonal, Durable, Entanglement, Escape, Fabric, Fishing, Guard, Hockey, Holes, Intertwine, Join, Knit, Knots, Line, Link, Loose, Pattern, Posts, Puncture, Rope, Screen, Soccer, Sports, Spread, Stitch, Stop, Strain, Stretch, Strings, Strong, Tauten, Tennis, Tied, Tighten, Trap, Twist, Veil, Weave, Webbing, Yarn

Yesterday's Answer: Silver

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XIX, Issue No. 299
Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGE
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.
Sablan's request for $1.35 million to fund seven programs and projects is contained in the Conference Report on Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a $447-billion spending measure for
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Woods: 'A little nervous' about return at Masters

By JIM LITKE
AP SPORTS WRITER

Tiger Woods acknowledged "living a lie," saying he alone was responsible for the sex scandal that caused his shocking downfall from global sporting icon to late-night TV punchline.

"It was all me. I'm the one who did it. I'm the one who acted the way I acted. No one knew what was going on when it was going on," Woods told the Golf Channel in one of two interviews Sunday night.

A second one was aired on ESPN, which will also televise the first two rounds of the Masters. Woods plans to end four months of seclusion and return to golf at the tournament next month. Talking about those plans marked the only time he smiled during either interview.

"I'm sure if more people would have known in my inner circle, they would have stopped it or tried to put a stop to it," he told the Golf Channel. "But I kept it all to myself."

Later in the same interview with reporter Kelly Tilghman, Woods refers to his serial adultery by saying, "I tried to stop and I couldn't stop. And it was just, it was horrific."

Woods answered questions on camera for the first time since his early morning car crash last November, yet again divulged few details about the crash, his marriage, his stint in a rehabilitation clinic or his personal life. Woods insisted those matters would remain private, just as he had in a statement on his Web site right after his crash and again Feb. 19 when he apologized on camera in front of a hand-picked audience but took no questions.

"A lot of ugly things have happened. ... I've done some pretty bad things in my life," he told ESPN's Tom Rinaldi.

Last week, a woman who claims to be one of Woods' mistresses released an embarrassing transcript of text messages she said he sent her.

AP

In a photo from video, Tiger Woods speaks during an interview with ESPN's Tom Rinaldi, left, near Woods' home in Windermere, Fla., that aired Sunday, March 21, 2010.

Woods admitted that four months of nearly nonstop public ridicule had caused him shame.

"It was hurtful, but then again, you know what? I did it," he told the Golf Channel. "And I'm the one who did those things. And looking back on it now, with a more clear head, I get it. I can understand why people would say those things. Because you know what? It was disgusting behavior. It's hard to believe that was me, looking back on it now."

Woods announced Dec. 11 that he would take an "indefinite break" from golf and was in a Mississippi clinic from the end of that month until early February. Asked by ESPN to describe the lowest point, he replied, "I've had a lot of low points. Just when I didn't think it could get any lower, it got lower."

He did, however, look more comfortable and composed than he did last month, wearing golf clothes and smiling several times when talk turned to the Masters, a tournament he won four times. He resumed practicing with swing coach Hank Haney last week.

Woods said he couldn't wait to get back, though he had reservations about how he'll be received.

"I'm a little nervous about that to be honest with you," he told ESPN. "It would be nice to hear a couple claps here and there."

Augusta National will provide Woods one of the most tightly controlled environments in the sport. Tournament organizers limit the number of credentialed media and galleries traditionally are among the best-behaved in sports. Even so, CBS boss Sean McManus, whose network televises the final two rounds of the Masters, predicted it "will be the biggest media event, other than the Obama inauguration, in the past 10 or 15 years."

A number of news outlets had submitted requests to the Woods camp for interviews. Both ESPN and the Golf Channel were notified late last week that Woods would agree to a five-minute interview Sunday afternoon with no restrictions on questions. CBS was also offered an interview, but turned it down.

"Depending on the specifics, we are interested in an extended interview without any restrictions on CBS," spokeswoman LeslieAnne Wade said.

The interviews were conducted at Isleworth, the gated community in Windermere, Fla., where Woods lives. Golf Channel's Tilghman said Woods' wife, Elin, was not present and "it's still in question whether she will attend the Masters."

Woods had asked that the interview not be aired until the PGA tournament being played Sunday was finished. Golf Channel spokesman Dan Higgins declined to speculate whether release of the embarrassing text messages influenced the timing of the interview.

"I can't speak for them," he said. "I have no idea."

Jim Furyk, who is both a friend and rival of Woods, called the interviews "part of that natural progression before he comes back."

Furyk was handed a transcript shortly after winning the Transitions Championship in Palm Harbor, Fla. He characterized what he read as "pretty much the same stuff that we already knew, but I think it's good for him to get his face out there and have people see him.

"They are going to make their judgments," he added, "but I think it allows him to kind of move on and get focused for the next thing."

Woods last played competitive golf at the Australian Masters, a tournament he won in November for his 82nd victory worldwide. He last played on the PGA Tour in the Tour Championship in September.

Woods told ESPN that being forced to confront his problems had made him stronger: "You start conquering it and you start living up to it. The strength that I feel now, I've never felt that type of strength."

But he also admitted being uncertain about how much he would play after coming back.

"I will have more treatment and more therapy sessions. And as far as my schedule going forward, I don't know what I'm going to do. ... I don't know what I'm going to do in the future, either," he told the Golf Channel. "That, to me, is a little bit bothersome, too, in the sense that I don't like not knowing what to do.

"But what I know I have to do is become a better person and that begins with going to more treatment."

Furyk ends long drought by winning Transitions

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Jim Furyk finally won after 32 months and 58 tournaments, and it became a footnote Sunday.

When he finally reached the 18th green after a wild detour through the trees at Innisbrook, two television networks broadcast the first interview with the Tiger Woods since revelations he had been cheating on his wife.

Furyk wasn't aware of this until after he won the Transitions Championship. One of Woods' closest friends on the PGA Tour, he walked into the interview room holding a three-page transcript of Woods' interviews with ESPN and the Golf Channel.

"You know what? Tomorrow, the paper is going to read that I won the golf tournament, and I don't really care if it's a three-page spread or a little blurb in the corner of the paper because the article is about him.

"I won the damn thing, and it really doesn't matter to me."

All he cared about was winning for the first time since the 2007 Canadian Open, his longest stretch without a victory since he first joined the PGA Tour. He almost cared too much.

Furyk closed with a 2-under 69 for a one-shot victory over K.J. Choi, and he made it way too hard on himself.

He missed the last three greens in regulation, making a remarkable par save from a bunker washed out by earlier rains, then hitting what he called a half-shank from the trees, a shot that nearly took out NBC Sports reporter Roger Maltbie.

"It all worked out in the end," Furyk said.

The road getting there was more of a roller coaster than Furyk wanted—the birdie on No. 10 to build a three-shot lead, failing to make birdie on the par-5 11th, a 35-foot birdie on the 12th, a pair of three-putt bogeys on par 3s sandwiched around a knockdown 8-iron into 3 feet for birdie on the 14th.

"I have a habit of making it tough on myself," Furyk said. "Just nerves got me, to be honest with you."

Furyk finished at 13-under 271 and won for the 14th time in his career, moving to No. 6 in the world.

Choi, who started three shots out of the lead, was tied with Furyk through seven holes until a two-shot swing on the par-3 eighth. Choi never got any closer until the final hole. He closed with a 4-under 67, but his runner-up finish should be enough to move him to No. 47 in the world and give him a good chance to get into the Masters.

Choi raised both arms in a strongman pose when he heard about the world ranking, a good consolation prize provided he stays in the top 50 after Bay Hill next week.

"It's actually better than what I thought I would be at this point," Choi said. "So definitely I've exceeded my expectations. All I can say is I will try my best next week to maintain or better that position."

Bubba Watson, who has never won on the PGA Tour or Nationwide Tour, also gave Furyk a good run and was within two shots throughout the back nine during a final round that had nearly six hours of weather delays.

Watson played without a bogey until the par-3 15th, when he came up short of the green, chipped over the green and dropped a crucial shot. He made pars the rest of the way for a 68, finishing alone in third.

Nick Watney had a 67 and was fourth, while defending champion Retief Goosen was another shot back after a 71.

Furyk did capture the Chevron World Challenge in December at Sherwood against a world-class field of 18 players, which counted toward the world ranking. Even so, going so long without winning on the PGA Tour was starting to grate on him.

He finally has an answer.

As he walked into a ballroom for the trophy presentation and someone mentioned how long it had been since he won, Furyk was quick to correct him. It had not been more than 2 1/2 years, rather 20 minutes since his tap-in for par, even as Woods was answering questions.

"I think it's good for him to get his face out there and have people see him," Furyk said. "They are going to make their judgments, but I think it allows him to kind of move on and get focused for the next thing."

The starting times Sunday were moved up avoid an afternoon forecast of thunderstorms, which arrived earlier than expected. After a delay of just over an hour, Furyk was on the first tee waiting for the fairway to clear when the siren sounded to suspend play, and the rumble of thunder soon followed.

When players returned to the course nearly four hours later, Furyk opened strong with two birdies in three holes, with his biggest challenge coming from Choi.

A two-time winner at Innisbrook, Choi had four birdies in six holes, including a 60-foot putt across the green at No. 3 and a 10-footer at No. 6 for a share of the lead. Furyk restored his cushion with a two-shot swing on the par-3 eighth by making a 25-foot birdie putt as Choi missed the green and failed to save par.

Watson was lurking all along, but Furyk didn't budge from his spot atop the leaderboard.

Watson finally cracked on the par-5 14th, when he chipped too strong and ran through the green, having to settle for par. On the next hole, Watson hit short of the 15th green, chipped over the back and took his lone bogey of the day.

Cornell dominates another higher seed

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Louis Dale scored 26 points and Ryan Wittman had 24, helping 12th-seeded Cornell dominate No. 4 seed Wisconsin 87-69 on Sunday to reach the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament for the first time.

The Big Red entered the tourney with no victories in four previous appearances and upset fifth-seeded Temple in the opening round. They are the first Ivy League team to advance to the round of 16 since Penn in 1979.

Next up, top-seeded Kentucky in the East Regional semifinals.

Cornell (29-4) shot 59 percent from the field to build a 43-31 halftime lead. Wisconsin (24-9) never made a serious run, falling behind by 20 points midway through the second half.

Jon Leuer led the Badgers with 23 points while Jason Bohannon had 18 and Trevon Hughes 10.

No. 2 West Virginia 68, No. 10 Missouri 59

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Da'Sean Butler accounted for 19 of West Virginia's 30 points in the first half, then finished with 28 to lead the second-seeded Mountaineers past No. 10 Missouri and into the round of 16.

Kevin Jones had 13 points and nine rebounds for the Big East Conference tournament champions.

Michael Dixon scored 15 points for Missouri (23-11), which went 20 of 61 from the field and was just as bad from the free-throw line, going 12 of 20.

West Virginia (29-6) advances to face No. 11 seed Washington at Syracuse, N.Y., on Thursday. It marks the fifth time the Mountaineers reached the final 16, and first since 2008.

MIDWEST REGIONAL

No. 5 Michigan State 85, No. 4 Maryland 83

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Korie Lucious hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to cap a frenetic finish and give injury-depleted Michigan State, which lost star guard Kalin Lucas, a victory over Maryland.

The Spartans blew a 16-point lead in the second half. Greivis Vasquez put fourth-seeded Maryland (24-9) ahead 83-82 with 6 seconds left, but Michigan State pushed the ball up the floor and Lucious, filling in for Lucas, drained a 3 from the top of the key, setting off a wild celebration by the Spartans.

No. 5 seed Michigan State (26-8) advanced to play ninth-seeded Northern Iowa on Friday in the Midwest Regional semifinals in St. Louis.

Lucas, a two-time all-Big Ten selection, got hurt with 2:28 remaining in the first half and did not return.

Spartans coach Tom Izzo said the junior likely has a torn Achilles' tendon, which would make it almost impossible for him to play in the round of 16—and probably would sideline him for the rest of the tournament.

No. 2 Ohio St. 75, No. 10 Georgia Tech 66

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Evan Turner rebounded from one of the worst shooting nights of his career with 24 points, and second-seeded Ohio State outlasted foul- and turnover-plagued Georgia Tech.

Jon Diebler added 20 points for the Buckeyes (29-7) and David Lighty had 18.

Ohio State faces sixth-seeded Tennessee on Friday night in St. Louis in a Midwest Regional semifinal.

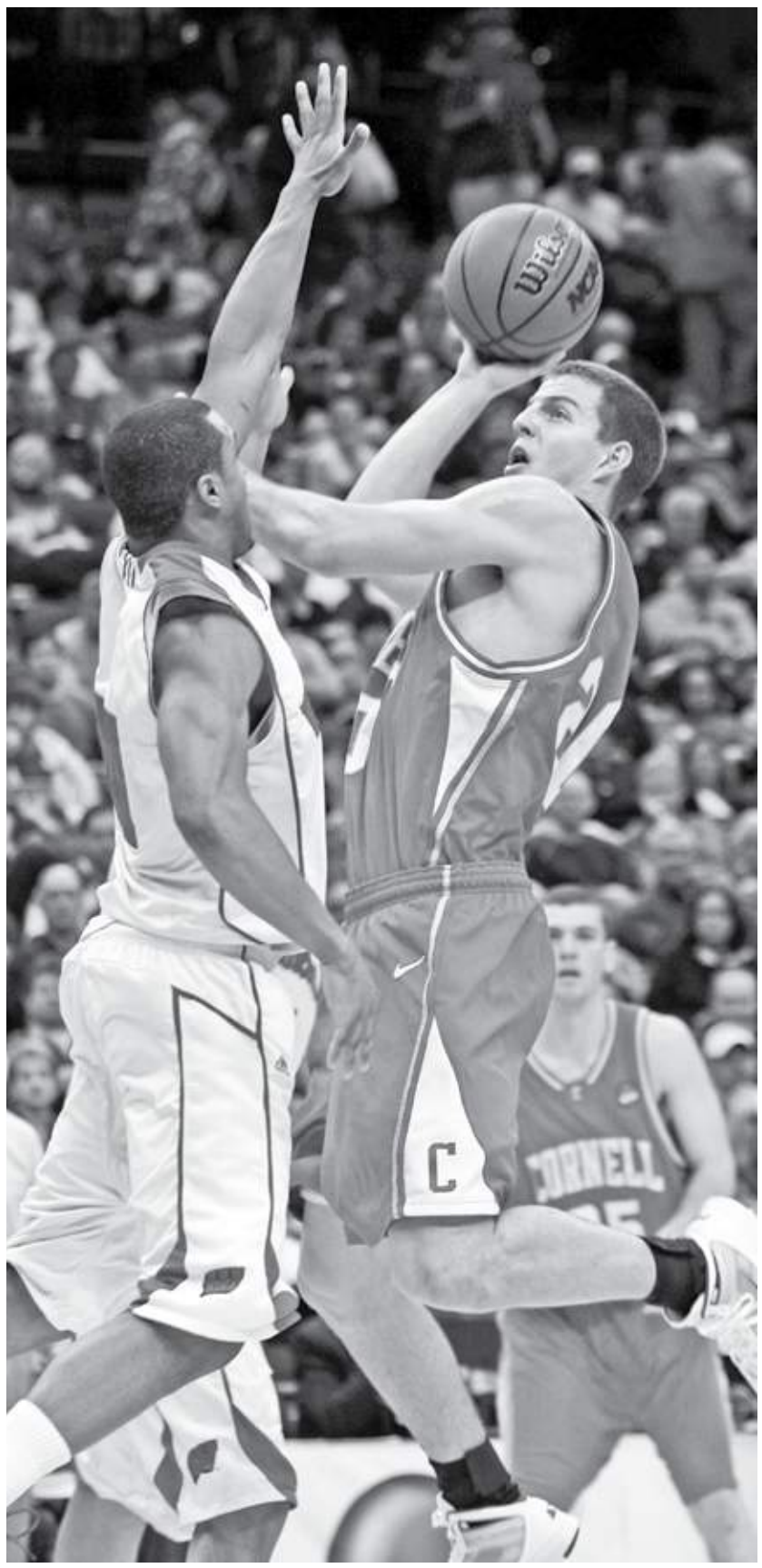
ACC freshman of the year Derrick Favors, who played just 5 minutes in the first half after picking up two quick fouls, finished with 10 points before fouling out in the last minute for 10th-seeded Georgia Tech (23-13).

WEST REGIONAL

No. 1 Syracuse 87, No. 8 Gonzaga 65

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Wes Johnson scored a career-high 31 points and pulled down 14 rebounds, and Andy Rautins added 24 points as top-seeded Syracuse hit a dozen 3-pointers to rout No. 8 Gonzaga.

It's been a storybook campaign for the Orange (30-4), who were unranked before the season and made it to No. 1 for the final week before losing to Georgetown in the Big East tournament. They play Thursday in the round of 16 against fifth-seeded Butler in Salt Lake City.



AP

Cornell's Ryan Wittman (20) drives to the basket as Wisconsin's Jordan Taylor defends during the second half of an NCAA second-round college basketball game in Jacksonville, Fla., Sunday, March 21, 2010.

Elias Harris led Gonzaga (27-7) with 24 points.

No. 6 Xavier 71, No. 3 Pittsburgh 68

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Jordan Crawford scored 27 points, including a breakaway dunk with just over two minutes remaining, to help sixth-seeded Xavier beat No. 3 Pittsburgh in the second round.

Jason Love had 14 points and a key block down the stretch for the Musketeers (26-8), who advanced to play second-seeded Kansas State in the West Regional semifinals in Salt Lake City on Thursday.

Ashton Gibbs scored 19 points and Brad Wanamaker had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Panthers (25-9), who nearly rallied with two 3-pointers by Gilbert Brown in the final 28 seconds.

SOUTH REGIONAL

No. 1 Duke 68, No. 8 California 53

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Nolan Smith scored 20 points, Kyle Singler added 17 and top-seeded Duke reached the round of 16 by beating California.

Brian Zoubek finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds—the sixth double-double of his career—as the Blue Devils overcame some long-range shooting woes with dominant post play.

Duke (31-5) advanced to play No. 4 seed Purdue in a South Regional semifinal Friday in Houston.

No. 4 Purdue 63, No. 5 Texas A&M 61, OT

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—Chris Kramer's drive past one defender and layup over another 6 inches taller than him with 4.2 seconds remaining in overtime sent fourth-seeded Purdue into the regional semifinals with a bruising victory over No. 5 Texas A&M.

B.J. Holmes got a final, frantic chance to win the game for Texas A&M with a rushed 3-point try from in front of his bench at the buzzer, but it hit short on the rim to ensure a sixth regional appearance in 12 NCAA tournaments dating to 1994 for Purdue (29-5).

Kramer, Purdue's leader with Robbie Hummel out with a knee injury, led the Boilermakers with 17 points and seven rebounds.

Cavaliers complete rare sweep of Pistons

CLEVELAND (AP)—J.J. Hickson and Anthony Parker combined for 20 points in the decisive third quarter as Cleveland beat Detroit 104-79 on Sunday to give the Cavaliers their first season sweep of the Pistons in 30 years.

Cleveland held a double-digit lead most of the game, although the Pistons cut it to 55-47 on a basket by Jonas Jerebko with 10 minutes left in the third quarter. Hickson and Parker took charge, combining to score 16 of Cleveland's next 19 points while Detroit went more than five minutes without a field goal.

Hickson finished with 13 points and eight rebounds, Parker had 11 points and LeBron James had 15 points and seven assists while sitting out the fourth quarter.

Hawks 119, Spurs 114, OT

At Atlanta, Marvin Williams scored 26 points to lead three scorers with 20 or more as Atlanta beat San Antonio in overtime to clinch a playoff berth.

The Hawks got their first win over the Spurs in five years.

Joe Johnson's jumper with 1:21 remaining in overtime gave Atlanta a 113-111 lead. After a missed 3-pointer by San Antonio's Matt Bonner, Al Horford hit a jumper as the shot clock expired to push the lead to four points with 35 seconds remaining.

Lakers 99, Wizards 92

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 20 of his 24 points during a dynamic second quarter as Los Angeles sent Washington to its 11th straight loss.

Pau Gasol had 28 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who won their sixth straight after a three-game skid. The defending NBA champions had little trouble with woeful Washington in the first three quarters, jumping to a 26-point halftime lead after another memorable quarter by Bryant.

Suns 93, Trail Blazers 87

At Phoenix, Jared Dudley scored all 10 of his points in the fourth quarter, and Grant Hill hit two key baskets in Phoenix's fourth straight win.

The loss ended Portland's five-game winning streak and was only the Trail Blazers' second defeat in nine games. It left them in eighth place in the Western Conference.

Amare Stoudemire led the Suns with 18 points and 14 rebounds. Steve Nash had 17 points and eight assists, Jason Richardson scored 16 points, and Hill finished with 12 points and 11 rebounds. Brandon Roy led Portland with 23 points.

Pacers 121, Thunder 101

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 32 points to help Indiana beat Oklahoma City.

Troy Murphy had 22 points and 13 rebounds and Roy Hibbert had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers, who have won three of four.

Jeff Green led Oklahoma City with 20 points. Kevin Durant, the league's No. 2 scorer, finished with 16.

Kings 102, Clippers 89

At Los Angeles, Carl Landry scored 24 points and Beno Udrih had 20 points and a career-high 17 assists, leading short-handed Sacramento over the Clippers.

Tyreke Evans, the Kings' rookie point guard and leading scorer, missed his sixth game of the season because of a mild concussion, a bruised jaw, lacerated gums and chipped teeth.

Rockets 116, Knicks 112

At New York, Aaron Brooks scored seven straight points down the stretch and Houston got strong efforts from the players it got for Tracy McGrady to beat New York.

Kevin Martin, acquired by the Rockets from Sacramento in the three-team deal that sent McGrady to New York, led Houston with 28 points. Rookie Jordan Hill and Jared Jeffries, who went from the Knicks to the Rockets, played key roles down the stretch because of injuries and illnesses to Houston's frontcourt.

'The Crank' wins in Beast of the East

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Frank "The Crank"Camacho notched a gold medal in the 5th Beast of the East Grappling and Jiu Jitsu Tournament held last Saturday (Sunday on Saipan) at the Caldwell College in Caldwell, New Jersey.

Camacho competed in the blue belt division in the 180-to 189-lb. bouts and won all for of his fights to top the division.

In an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, Camacho said he prevailed in his first two bouts via Kimura. Kimura is a submission hold commonly used in MMA fights. This submission affects mainly the shoulder joint, as the joint lock hyperrotates the shoulder causing intense pain and the tap out. This grappling technique is named after the great judo master Masahiko Kimura.

In his third bout, Camacho leaned on a back bow and arrow choke to advance to the finals, where he won, 7-0.

"I fought two Brazilian jiu jitsu practitioners from the New Jersey east coast area. I fought a guy from Team Renzo Gracie and from Team Alliance. I wasn't too sure about the two others," Camacho said.

Saipan Tribune checked the website of the event, but results of the various bouts were unavailable at press time.

"My final match was a super tough one. I had a battle against a very good wrestler. The first six minutes of the match was back and forth with no one scoring. We went to three minutes overtime and in the last 40 seconds, I grabbed a single leg and took him down for the two takedown points, passed his guard [passed his legs to side control] for three points, and secured the knee on belly position finalizing the finals match with two extra knee on belly points with a total of 7 points to 0. I was super exhausted. It was a very good finals match," Camacho said.

"This was a very good win. Grapplers quest tournaments in New Jersey are always tough. Guys from all over New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. came down to compete. I wanted to use this tournament as a tune-up for the big upcoming tournaments this summer," Camacho added.

The Saipan MMA fighter is talking of the Pan Ams on April 10, 2010, the World Championships/Mundials in June (biggest BJJ tournament in the world) and the New York Open.

"This year I'm really concentrating on my jiu jitsu game. Of course, my ultimate goal is to be an MMA champion but I need to specialize in all aspects of the game before I step in the cage again. I would like to have an MMA fight sometime this year, but nothing is set," Camacho said.

3 SAIPAN

From Page 28

Guam, returned to Saipan last week to get the age group title that eluded him last year. The Marianas High School graduate was runner-up to Quincy Johnson (4:02:13) after timing in at 4:14:16 last year. This year, Mancao broke his 2009 time, clocking in at 3:44:37 for the second fastest time among Saipan's entries in the men's division. Mancao, who is hones his biking skills through the help of Guam's Jazy Garcia, won the age group competition against Tinian's Joshua Manglona (4:09:18). He submitted 39:47 in the swim leg, 1:49:47 in the bike portion, and 1:15:03 in the run part.

Sublemente owned the third fastest time among Saipan bets in the men's race, completing the grueling race in 3:47:21. He defeated Korea's Chang Hee Lee (3:51:09) and Young Jin Kim (4:49:45). Sublemente recorded 39:53 in the swim race, 1:49:06 in the bike leg, and 1:18:22 in the run portion.

Other age group top placers in the men's division were Japan's Shinya Imamura (3:51:41) in the 25 to 29; Korea's Sang Geun Jang (3:34:46) in the 35 to 39; Korea's Kang Sub Song (3:35:59) in the 40 to 44, Japan's Keren Miers (3:50:19) in the 50 to 54; Korea's Tae Sun Jeun (4:01:00) in the 55 to 59; and Japan's Hideaki Uriu (4:15:49) in the 60-and-above.

In the women's division, Saipan's Dawn Hammermeister prevailed in the 45 to 49 age group, posting 34:48 in the swim, 2:05:28 in the bike leg, and 1:31:48 in the run for a combined time of 4:12:04.

Other first placers in the women's age group competitions were Korea's Youn Ju Son (5:38:00) in the 35 to 39 age group; Korea's Soon Young Oh (5:50:52) in the 40 to 44; Australia's Julia Lendavi (4:42:50) in the 45 to 49; and Japan's Masako Miyauchi (4:37:36) in the 55 to 59.

27 TAKE

From Page 28

Hakuto Obara, Tatsuya Morita, Yoshiya Morita, and Mayu Morita all held hands crossing the finish line together with a time of 33:23.

The 8-10 year old division was another close race, but Kosei Toda jumped ahead early in the swimming leg and never looked back posting an impressive time of 32:23. Logan Mister came in second with 33:09 and Luther Lizama finished third with a time of 34:56. In the 5-7 age division, Lennosuke Suzuki took first place marking a 16:32. Ichiro Borja finished second with a time of 17:17 and Rinto Tukahashi earned third with a 17:48.

Organized by Tina Goodwin, Taga Kids consisted of 27 participants in three age brackets. Two volunteer lifeguards were on duty during the swimming leg of the event. Other volunteers were posted along the American Memorial Park parking lot to make sure the kids were safe and did not get disoriented off of the course. A few kids were tripped up during the race, but there were no serious injuries. Goodwin said the event was a hit, but they are always in need of more volunteers.

The required distances for the competition varied depending on the age bracket. The 5-7- year-olds swam one 50 meter lap, rode their bikes along a 100m path for one lap, and then ran another 100 meter lap.

The 8-10 year old bracket ran the same course, but completed two laps of each leg, and the 11-14 division had to complete three laps, respectively. Water park passes from the Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Saipanda backpacks from the Marianas Visitor Authority went to the Top 3 finishers of each age bracket. A T-shirt and a gold medal for participation also went to all of the competitors just after crossing the finish line.

PIC

From Page 28

ings, but is just a win away from World Resort (6-1).

What was expected as a close game ended in a rout when PIC started dictating the tempo of the match since the opening quarter. Woon Ju Jung, Ryan Sanciangco, and Rex Yabut made things happen for PIC early on, ending the first and second quarters with their team ahead.

From a seven-point lead in the first period, 24-14, behind the combined 14 points of Jung and Yabut, PIC took a nine-point cushion at halftime, 51-42. Sanciangco fired 11 of his 19 points in the second period to keep PIC's distance.

The lead ballooned to as high as 16 in the third period, as MBI, sans its coach Kitz Barja, was completely lost on offense and defense in the second half. Ivan De Vero was the only one seemed to have the heart to attack PIC's defense, but he still had to bleed for points, going to the foul line six times and making only one charity. Pando Muleta had seven quiet points, hitting 4-for-4 at the stripe. Art Trajano and Noel David missed two free throws each and the rest of MBI players watched PIC walked away with fastbreak layups and Heartim Williams canned a couple of treys.

PIC put icing on the cake in the fourth quarter, outgunning MBI, 40-16. Only David and Nonato scored for MBI in the final canto.

TBK 84, Hard Rock 76

In the first game on Saturday, TBK Auto Shop halted Hard Rock's second-half rally to post an 84-76 win.

TBK now has a 4-3 record, while Hard Rock dropped to a 0-6 mark.

TBK led at halftime, 48-33, but Hard Rock cut the lead to single digit in the second half behind Jomar Tengco and Oliver Tiamzon. However, Hard Rock fell short, as TBK played steady in the fourth behind the good offensive game of Jun Pantaleon and Melvin Capalad, who had 29 and 26 points, respectively.

Mobil 104, Pepsi 99

In the first game on Sunday, Mobil needed an extra five minutes to thwart Pepsi, 104-99.

Jun Estolas knocked down nine points in overtime, while Manolo Manalo chipped in five to lift Mobil to its second straight win.

Mobil led in the first three quarters before Jojo Garon and Erlan Lansang brought Pepsi back in the game and forced an overtime. However, Estolas and Manalo outgunned the Pepsi duo in the extension period, 14-11, to give Mobil a five-point win.

AON 93, Cell Pro 88

In the second game AON/NJ Plus eked out a 93-88 triumph against Cellular Pro.

Aon went 3-for-4 at the stripe in the last 38 seconds of the match to secure the win.

Cellular Pro came back from an 11-point deficit, 60-71, at the start of the fourth canto, moving within two, 88-90. It had a chance to tie the game, but Eric Dulfo missed twice and AON's Bon Tamayo answered with a pair of free throws on the other end.

Another Cell Pro miss returned the ball to AON and sent John Capuyon to the foul line for a split. Cell Pro faltered on its offensive set for the fourth time and AON hung on to the ball as time expired.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	45	24	.652	—
Toronto	34	34	.500	10 1/2
New York	25	45	.357	20 1/2
Philadelphia	24	46	.343	21 1/2
New Jersey	7	62	.101	38

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	49	21	.700	—
x-Atlanta	45	24	.652	3 1/2
Miami	36	34	.514	13
Charlotte	35	34	.507	13 1/2
Washington	21	47	.309	27

Central Division

y-Cleveland	56	15	.789	—
Milwaukee	38	30	.559	16 1/2
Chicago	32	37	.464	23
Indiana	24	46	.343	31 1/2
Detroit	23	47	.329	32 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	46	23	.667	—
San Antonio	41	27	.603	4 1/2
Houston	36	32	.529	9 1/2
Memphis	37	33	.529	9 1/2
New Orleans	33	38	.465	14

Northwest Division

Denver	47	23	.671	—
Utah	45	25	.643	2
Oklahoma City	42	26	.618	4
Portland	42	29	.592	5 1/2
Minnesota	14	56	.200	33

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	52	18	.743	—
Phoenix	44	26	.629	8
L.A. Clippers	26	44	.371	26
Sacramento	24	46	.343	28
Golden State	19	50	.275	32 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Houston 116, New York 112
Indiana 121, Oklahoma City 101
Sacramento 102, L.A. Clippers 89
Cleveland 104, Detroit 79
Atlanta 119, San Antonio 114, OT
L.A. Lakers 99, Washington 92
Phoenix 93, Portland 87

TRANSITIONS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP) — Scores Sunday after the final round of the $5 million Transitions Championship at the par 7,340-yard, par 71 Copperhead Course at the Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club:

FINAL ROUND

Jim Furyk (500), $972,000	67-68-67-69—271
K.J. Choi (300), $583,200	69-69-67-67—272
Bubba Watson (190), $367,200	70-65-70-68—273
Nick Watney (135), $259,200	73-70-65-67—275
Retief Goosen (110), $216,000	67-68-70-71—276
Stephen Ames (95), $187,650	69-71-70-67—277
Luke Donald (95), $187,650	71-68-67-71—277
Steve Stricker (75), $145,800	70-66-71-71—278
Nick O'Hern (75), $145,800	72-68-67-71—278
Jonathan Byrd (75), $145,800	67-70-70-71—278
Padraig Harrington (75), $145,800	69-65-72-72—278
Carl Pettersson (75), $145,800	67-68-70-73—278
Jerry Kelly (58), $104,400	70-70-68-71—279
Justin Rose (58), $104,400	73-68-67-71—279
Webb Simpson (58), $104,400	73-69-65-72—279
Bill Haas (54), $83,700	70-71-71-68—280
Jimmy Walker (54), $83,700	70-71-68-71—280
Greg Chalmers (54), $83,700	72-71-67-70—280
Jeff Maggert (54), $83,700	67-69-70-74—280
Jason Bohn (49), $60,696	75-69-68-69—281
Charlie Wi (49), $60,696	70-72-70-69—281
Justin Leonard (49), $60,696	71-68-72-70—281
James Nitties (49), $60,696	71-73-68-69—281
David Toms (49), $60,696	74-63-73-71—281
Spencer Levin (45), $44,100	69-70-72-71—282
Steve Elkington (45), $44,100	68-68-76-70—282
Lucas Glover (45), $44,100	69-75-69-69—282
Charles Howell III (37), $30,946	72-70-70-71—283
D.A. Points (37), $30,946	70-72-70-71—283
Ted Purdy (37), $30,946	72-69-71-71—283
Jeff Quinney (37), $30,946	68-70-74-71—283
Jeff Klauk (37), $30,946	73-71-67-72—283
Chris DiMarco (37), $30,946	71-71-68-73—283
Martin Laird (37), $30,946	70-70-73-70—283
Brett Quigley (37), $30,946	70-73-66-74—283
Adam Scott (37), $30,946	73-66-74-70—283
Jason Dufner (37), $30,946	70-74-70-69—283
Geoff Ogilvy (37), $30,946	73-71-65-74—283
Corey Pavin (37), $30,946	72-68-74-69—283
John Senden (37), $30,946	69-72-66-76—283
Bob Heintz (0), $19,980	73-67-70-74—284
David Duval (28), $19,980	72-69-69-74—284
Nicholas Thompson (28), $19,980	70-68-76-70—284
Sergio Garcia (28), $19,980	73-71-71-69—284
Kris Blanks (28), $19,980	72-70-73-69—284
Brandt Snedeker (21), $14,040	69-69-73-74—285
Daniel Chopra (21), $14,040	72-69-71-73—285
Derek Lamely (21), $14,040	73-68-72-72—285
Rickie Fowler (21), $14,040	67-71-70-77—285
Nathan Green (21), $14,040	73-71-70-71—285
Kevin Sutherland (21), $14,040	73-71-70-71—285
Tim Wilkinson (21), $14,040	73-68-73-71—285
Brendon de Jonge (21), $14,040	72-72-71-70—285
Brian Davis (21), $14,040	71-73-71-70—285
Mathew Goggin (14), $12,150	70-69-72-75—286
Alex Cejka (14), $12,150	69-69-74-74—286
Bo Van Pelt (14), $12,150	72-71-70-73—286
John Daly (14), $12,150	70-71-72-73—286
Rod Pampling (14), $12,150	73-71-70-72—286
Fred Funk (14), $12,150	70-73-72-71—286
Jason Day (10), $11,718	72-72-71-72—287
J.B. Holmes (10), $11,718	68-74-73-72—287
Steve Flesch (6), $11,340	70-72-70-76—288
Brian Gay (6), $11,340	71-70-71-76—288
Kenny Perry (6), $11,340	71-72-68-77—288
Ross Fisher (0), $11,340	68-70-75-75—288
Tim Petrovic (6), $11,340	72-72-71-73—288
Ricky Barnes (3), $10,962	70-72-71-76—289
Scott McCarron (3), $10,962	71-72-72-74—289
Josh Teater (1), $10,800	69-73-73-76—291
Roland Thatcher (1), $10,692	70-71-73-81—295

FedExCup points in parentheses

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SURVIVORS

From Page 28

four innings to beat IT&E, 12-2.

The win was the Braves third in four matches, while IT&E remained winless in five games.

IT&E scored only in the first inning to force a tie, 2-all, before Braves starting pitcher recorded five strikeouts in the next two innings and reliever J.J. Lifoifoi struck out three of IT&E's four batters at the bottom of the fourth inning.

Falcons 9, Lions 6

The Falcons capitalized on an erratic Lions in the last two innings to pull off an 11-6 triumph in the first game on Sunday.

Behind after three innings, 3-5, the Falcons scored all four runs off the Lions' errors in the fourth inning and two more off a passed ball in the fifth inning to eke out a come-from-behind league.

Red Sox 12, Survivors 2

Ben Maratita came off the bench and hit 2-for-3 and recorded three RBIs to power Red Sox to a 12-2 win against the Survivors on Saturday.

On defense, the Red Sox allowed Survivors to score only at the bottom of the third inning before relief pitcher Franco Nakamura struck out three in the fourth inning and allowed only one hit in the fifth.

Dragons 13, JPO 2

The Dragons leaned on an 11-run bottom of the second to beat the JPO Enforcers, 13-2.

Chico and Franco Bondoc and Pedro Ngeskebei score two runs apiece in the second inning to lead the Dragons breakaway. After two innings with JPO reaching home plate only once in the first inning, the Dragons went head, 12-1.

JPO never recovered from thereon, as it only scored one run off the Dragons' error in the last three innings.

Hustlers 3, Athletics 2

Right fielder Jerome Tagabuel made the game-winning hit, lifting the Hustlers to a 3-2 victory over the Century Athletics.

With the game tied at 2-all, Tagabuel singled and drove leadoff batter Bonnie Babauta home to break the deadlock at the bottom of the fifth inning. The Hustlers preserved the lead after throwing out the A's first three batters at the top of the sixth inning.

Ol'Aces 28, Shell 1

The most-lopsided win over the weekend came from defending champion Ol'Aces, who clobbered Shell, 28-1.

Ol'Aces needed only four innings to wrap up the game, saving their best for last after scoring 11 runs in the fourth inning. Shell's lone run came off a passed ball in the second inning.

Swim leg of 2010 Tagaman Triathlon

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A group of Korean swimmers pose for photo before the start of the swim leg.

Australia's Jason Chalker leads a group of pros who first plunge into the waters off Pacific Islands Club during the 2-kilometer swim leg of the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday.

The pros rush to the waters off Pacific Islands Club during the early morning swim race.

American pro Shonny Vanlandingham leads two others in going for the second lap of the 2-kilometer race.

The second group of swimmers take their turn at the two-lap race.

Three Korean swimmers complete the first lap of the two-lap swim race.

Canada's Mike Vine adjusts his goggles.

SSC swimmers, from left, Andrew Kimball, Bryce Daly, and Kento Akimaru strike a pose before the kick-off of the swim leg.

United Kingdom's Darrell Parker (7) tries to catch up with the first wave of swimmers.

Korea's Byung Eun Jeon head to the swim-bike transition area at the southern parking lot of PIC.

Woods: 'A little nervous' about return at Masters

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

79 days to go — SOUTH AFRICA 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kieran Daly (38) and Butch Sublemente (96) join the second wave of swimmers plunging into the waters off Pacific Islands Club early Saturday morning for the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon.

3 Saipan triathletes triumph in Tagaman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club general manager Kieran Daly completed his impressive run in the 2010 Saipan Sports Fest after a first-place finish in the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon on Saturday.

Daly negotiated the 2-kilometer swim, 60-km bike race, and 15-km run in three hours, 39 minutes, and 49 seconds to become the first male finisher from Saipan and the first, too in his age group (45 to 49), beating 11 other participants.

The Tagaman win gave Daly a sort of back-to-back wins in the Saipan Sports Fest, as he also won in the XTERRA Sport division of the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship, two weeks ago. Daly clocked in at 33:12 (35th) in the swim leg, 1:45:44 (17th) in the bike portion, and 1:17:57 (45th) in the run part to place 23rd out of the 85 finishers in the on-road race.

Two other Saipan triathlets topped their respective age group: Matthew Mancao in the 24-and-under and Butch Sublemente in the 30 to 34.

The 18-year-old Mancao, who is now based in Guam studying at the University of

See 3 SAIPAN on Page 26

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Participants from the 5-7 year old bracket (front row) and the 11-14 year old bracket (back row) pose before beginning the swimming leg of the 2010 Taga Kids.

27 take part in Taga Kids

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A total of 27 youth triathletes took part in the 2010 Taga Kids, which was held simultaneously with the Tagaman Triathlon off the waters of Micro Beach and inside the American Memorial Park compound last Saturday.

There was a four way tie in the 11-14 age bracket as

See 27 TAKE on Page 26

Survivors thwart Twins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Survivors lived up to their name, outlasting the Twins, 6-5, during their Major League game in the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball competition on Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge' Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The McDonald's-backed Survivors survived the Twins rally at the top of the sixth inning to gain their second win in six games. The Twins absorbed their first loss after five matches.

Survivors gave up two runs in the first two innings then shut out the Twins in the next three to take a 6-2 lead.

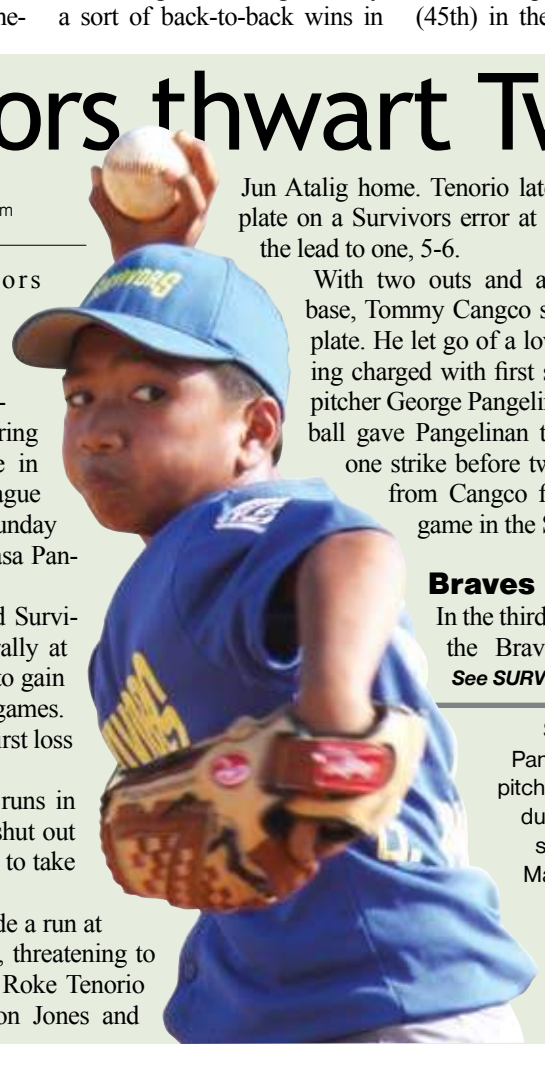
However, the Twins made a run at the top of the sixth inning, threatening to extend the game. Catcher Roke Tenorio double and brought Darion Jones and Jun Atalig home. Tenorio later reached home plate on a Survivors error at left field, cutting the lead to one, 5-6.

With two outs and a runner on first base, Tommy Cangco stepped up to the plate. He let go of a low ball before being charged with first strike from relief pitcher George Pangelinan. Another low ball gave Pangelinan two balls against one strike before two empty swings from Cangco finally ended the game in the Survivors' favor.

Braves 12, IT& E 2

In the third game of the day, the Braves needed only

See SURVIVORS on Page 26



Survivors' George Pangelinan delivers a pitch against the Twins during the top of the sixth inning of their Major League game on Sunday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

PIC hands MBI first loss in Shirley's caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Micronesian Brokers. Inc/ Dial Full Force's winning streak is over.

Pacific Islands Club crushed MBI, 114-74, during the second game in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

The PIC victory came when MBI sported a new uniform and tried to remain the only unbeaten squad in the 15-team field. Now, the defending champion had to kiss its bid for an undefeated regular season goodbye, as MBI dropped to a 7-1 mark.

PIC improved to a 5-2 slate, tying Aqua Resort Club in third place. MBI remained on top of the team stand-

See PIC on Page 26

Pacific Islands Club's Rex Yabut, left, pulls up for a shot and is fouled by MBI's Art Trajano during their game in the Shirley's caging on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO